

Dispute at BL hardens s more men strike

f between British Leyland and the
t and General Workers' Union, to whom
the 17,000 men on strike at company
long, appears to be widening although
tent and union are to meet tomorrow
duction at Longbridge, in Birmingham,
ast night.

Company-union talks led for tomorrow

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yland is to meet
s tomorrow to dis-
creasingly bitter
over the com-
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of BL Cars un-
official strike in
company's imposi-
sions increased
3,000 to about
85,000 hourly paid

her 5,200 laid off,
the Mini at the
plant in Birming-
ham by last night.
Rover saloons,
Rovers, Range
Sherpa vans was
standstill.

ewest and most
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ax. Sir Michael
chairman of BL,
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c announcement
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pay increases of
10 per cent.

division between
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of Engineering
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company, was
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000 BL members
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Duffy, the AUEW
f the question of
truction to cross

Leading article, page 15
Mini Metro preview, page 18

until the dispute was over.
Later publication of the *Bristol
Evening Post* was also sus-
pended.

Mr James Harrison, manag-
ing editor of the newspapers,
said that the management was
not prepared to continue pub-
lication under the "intolerable
conditions" which had led to
complaints from readers, news-
agents and advertisers.

The union's action had
mainly taken the form of man-
datory chapel (office branch)
meetings being held at short
notice, disrupting production
and leading on some occasions
to the newspapers not appear-
ing. The action had cost the
company more than a million
lost copies and £250,000 in
revenue.

New measures to be an-
nounced by the employers
after tomorrow's meeting are
expected to include a readiness
to suspend or dismiss union
members who take industrial
action.

The Newspaper Society said
that it had received about 170
reports of action against news-
papers since the "guerrilla"
campaign began. The dispute is
over the union's annual pay
claim in which it demanded an
£80 a week minimum grade rate
and quick progress toward the
introduction of a 35-hour week.

Union officials have rejected
the employers' offer of a £75 a
week minimum and the intro-
duction of a 37-hour week by
July, 1982. The executives of
the two other main printing
unions have recommended their
members to accept the offer.

Japan's way to beat
three-day rail strike
Japanese workers are making plans to
overcome the disruption from an
expected three-day national rail strike
by taking clothes, blankets and quilts
to work so they can sleep in their
factories, banks and offices. All
hotel rooms in Tokyo and other large
cities have been reserved. Page 7

Welsh language aid
The Government planned to spend £1m
next year in support of the Welsh
language, double the present amount.
Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of
State for Wales, said. Page 5

Gandhi case arrests
Ram Lalwani, accused of attempting to
murder Sir Gandhi by throwing a knife
at her, has been remanded in custody
until Thursday week. The police
arrested five more people in connexion
with the case. Mr Lalwani complained
to his lawyer that the police were exert-
ing pressure on him. Page 7

Divorce ban 'stays'
Changes in the Irish Republic's divorce
laws were ruled out by the Prime
Minister as a reform campaign got
under way. Page 4

stalemate
exchanges between Dublin
ster ended with no definite
r on any item, except for
ishment of a cross-border
nk. Page 2

All hostages are well, Red Cross doctor says

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, April 15

A Red Cross doctor left
Tehran for Geneva yesterday
after telling journalists that all
the American hostages held by
militant students were in good
health.

Dr Bernard Liebeskind, who
flew to Tehran especially for
yesterday's visit to the occupied
United States embassy to inter-
view the hostages, said they
had only minor ailments that
could be easily treated.

"They are all in good condi-
tion," he said. "Most of them
have no complaints from the
physical point of view... they
were also well psychologically."

His only reservations were
about one hostage who seemed
"anxious" and two others who
appeared to be undergoing a
bout of depression.

Dr Liebeskind and the per-
manent Red Cross representa-
tive in Tehran, Mr Harold
Scmid de Gruenck, said they
were satisfied they had seen all
the hostages. Other sources
said they checked off those they
saw against a prepared list
they took into the embassy. The
officials would not say how
many they saw, but they did
not, as the students had claimed
yesterday, see all the hostages
in one room during their eight-
hour examination. They re-
ported being led into several rooms.

Meanwhile, the text of a
somewhat diffident reply from
Ayatollah Khomeini to a mes-
sage from the Pope was pub-
lished today. In it the Ayatollah
urged the Pope to "frighten
the United States Government
from oppression, bullying and
plundering" rather than worry-
ing about growing dangers in
Iran and the Middle East.

"The Islamic nation of Iran
welcomes the difficulties which
come with severing American
relations and does not fear the
greater dangers of which you
have written," the message said.
Advise Mr Carter, who is
facing final defeat, to behave
according to the humanitarian
criteria of nations which seek
absolute independence."

Family message: Messages for
their families from the hostages
were passed on by telephone
today soon after Dr Liebeskind
returned to Switzerland. (Our
Geneva Correspondent writes.)
The messages are being followed
up by short medical reports.

Dr Liebeskind described the
health of the hostages as generally
good. He had made a few sug-
gestions to the Iranian doctor in
charge of them. "This doctor is
there every day," he added. "If
a specialist is needed, one comes
rapidly from the town."

Mother's visit: The mother of
one of the hostages arrived in
Paris today in an effort to
obtain a visa for Iran so she
can visit her son and talk with
his captors.

Mr Barbara Timm, of Oak
Creek, Wisconsin, her husband
and two lawyers went to the
Iranian Embassy this afternoon
but were unable to see the
ambassador to present their
case. Mrs Timm's son, Sergeant
Kevin Hermoning, 20, of the
United States Marines, was a
security guard at the embassy.
—AP

United States warning, page 6



Sir Alec Guinness with the special Academy
Award he received in Hollywood for a lifetime's
contribution to films. "Kramer vs Kramer"
won five of the Oscars. Details, page 7.

Paris ministry hit by terrorist rockets

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 15

Three attacks were staged
early this morning against the
French Ministry of Transport
and two of its annexes by
terrorists who described them-
selves as members of the Direct
Action organization. This group
had claimed responsibility for
the attacks earlier this month
against two computer firms in
Toulouse, and for the machine-
gunning of the office of the
Minister for Cooperation on
March 18.

Today's attacks did little
material damage and no one
was hurt. The first two, against
the Interministerial Committee
for Road Security and against
the Ministry of Transport, took
place within minutes of one
another in the same district
of Paris. Rockets were fired
from a white Simca car in the
street but were badly aimed.

The third attack was carried
out with explosive against
the National Traffic Control
Centre, which guides the
hundreds of Frenchmen on their
holiday migrations to the moun-
tains and the Riviera. Close
circuit television consoles were
damaged, but not the computer
which processes all data on
traffic conditions throughout the
country.

An anonymous caller tele-
phoned the French press
agency to read a statement say-
ing: "We shall give you this
week, by means of violence, the
only reply which you are capable
of hearing," it said. "We have
our backs to the wall, and the
Government leaves no choice as to
means. The guilty ones are those
who, from provocation to pro-
vocation, drive honest people to
violence and lawlessness."

Perhaps the attacks were not
the work of a terrorist group at
all, but of angry motorists, es-
pecially as the Ministry of Trans-
port, the French Employers' Fed-
eration, and other "capitalist"
organizations.

It was the turn of the 8th, the
14th and the 16th arrondisse-
ments. Tomorrow who knows?
We demand the immediate
liberation of our imprisoned
comrades."

On March 27 and 28, in Paris
and Toulon, the police launched
a large scale anti-terrorist
operation in the course of which
34 people were detained, in-
cluding four presumed members
of the Red Brigades involved
in the assassination of Signor
Aldo Moro, the former Italian
Prime Minister. Nineteen have
since been charged before the
Court of State Security.

This morning's terrorist
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Mr Begin promises to speed talks on Palestinian autonomy

From David Cross
Washington, April 15

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Israeli Prime Minister, has
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He has counterbalanced this
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"We shall not interfere in the
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but we shall assure the security
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In his opening remarks, Mr
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Arab summit, page 6
Israel may alter law, page 7

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Russian jet signifies end of era in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, April 15

If any further evidence is
required that an era is drawing
to an end in Rhodesia this
week, it was provided this
afternoon by the arrival of an
Aeroflot Ilyushin 62 jet aircraft
at Salisbury airport bearing the
official Soviet delegation to
attend Thursday night's inde-
pendence celebrations.

It was not only the first time
a Russian aircraft had landed
at Salisbury, but also the first
occasion that senior Soviet
officials had set foot on
Rhodesian soil. The official
three-man delegation was
accompanied by a large number
of burly men in inquisi-
torial suits.

However, the Russians' ar-
rival was somewhat over-
shadowed by a Second World
War Spitfire which cheekily
took off minutes before the
Soviet aircraft arrived and
proceeded to perform three
barrel-rolls low over the run-
way as the Soviet airliner
taxied to the terminal building.

The Spitfire was piloted by Air
Jack Malloch, whose other
aeronautical activities in the
past have included running a
section-beating freight service
carrying exports to other parts
of Africa and to Europe.

The Aeroflot Ilyushin was
the first of a long line of un-
familiar aircraft which will be
arriving in Salisbury during the
next two days. The airport will
be receiving aircraft from
China, India, Pakistan, Bangla-
desh, as well as from all over
Africa and Europe.

In Salisbury itself the capital
is beginning to take on a festive
air. Bunting made from red,
green, gold and black triangles
of cloth is being strung across
streets and over buildings. Many
white-owned shops in central
Salisbury have made window
displays out of the Zanu (PF)
party colours or the new Zim-
babwean flag.

Manufacturers of souvenirs—
who have done good business
during the past few years by
producing all sorts of knick-
knacks for white Rhodesians
who wanted to remember the
last days of white rule—have
produced a whole series of
independence mementoes. These
include plastic Mugabe paper
clips, shopping bags bearing a
portrait of the new Prime
Minister and an inscription say-
ing "I love comrade Mugabe".

A fund has been set up to
help finance the independence
celebrations. Many white-run
businesses, anxious to demon-
strate their patriotic zeal, have
come forward with much pub-
licized distributions of large
cheques.

The Government has also
appealed for the loan of cars
to drive distinguished guests
around as the country is not
equipped to handle so many
VIPs at one time.

The Government has taken
over the famous Meikles Hotel
in the city centre to accommo-
date its visitors.

Almost the only un festive
aspect of the run up to inde-
pendence has been the weather.
For the past three days Salis-
bury, which likes to describe
itself as the "sunshine city",
has been drenched by un-
seasonal rains. But in this part
of the world rain means good
luck.

In Parliament yesterday, it
was announced that Britain will
give Zimbabwe aid worth £75m.
Aid package, page 6

Nine more patients die in new 'flu' epidemic

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Nine elderly patients have
died during the past week at
an Edinburgh hospital from an
influenza-type virus, it was dis-
closed yesterday. The 160
members of staff, Dr Andrew
Anderson, a community medi-
cine specialist with an interest
in the geriatric field, told a
press conference called by the
health board that there seemed
to be similarities to the illness
which had killed elderly
patients in three British geriatric
hospitals, Longmore, King-
seat and St Luke's at Market
Harborough, Leicestershire. The
death toll at the three hospitals
so far totals 30.

Dr Anderson told the con-
ference that an vaccination
programme had been carried out
to combat the illness. "At the
moment we do not know what
virus we are dealing with," he
said. He hoped the worst was
now over and that the outbreak
of the illness had run its
course.

A Staff Reporter writes: Thirty-
six old people are known to
have died in the past week from
the virus in homes in Aber-
deen, Market Harborough,
Macclesfield and near Congle-
ton, Cheshire.

The first 10 deaths at King-
seat hospital, Aberdeen, were
all women, but the eleventh was
a man, aged 76. Eleven elderly
patients have died at Gave-
worth New Hall, near Congle-
ton, and four at Rowans,
Macclesfield. Ten have died at
St Luke's hospital, Market Har-
borough.

Dr Anderson said yesterday
that no precise diagnosis of
the illness. They described it
as a type of influenza to which
patients already suffering chest
complaints were particularly
susceptible.

Laboratory tests to identify
the virus would not be com-
pleted for at least another week,
he added. Specimens had been
taken to

HOME NEWS

Extra rates may be necessary to fund teachers' pay rises recommended in Clegg report

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Many local authorities would have to levy supplementary rates or lay off substantial numbers of staff, including teachers, because of the size of the Clegg and other pay awards, Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the Conservative-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

After a meeting of the consultative council on local government finance, with Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, in the chair, and attended by Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Sir Godfrey said there had been a "frank exchange of views" on the "very severe financial crisis" facing many authorities.

"We told the Government that if we accepted the Clegg report on teachers' pay, which I suppose we shall, then that, coupled with the comparability award for the local authority staffed staffs and the manual workers award, meant that we had very little cash left with which to pay this year's pay awards for teachers, salaried staff, manual workers, firemen and policemen", he said.

The Government had given local authorities in England and Wales £2,500m on top of the basic £157,000m in the 1980-81 rate support grant to cover the extra costs involved in the comparability and normal pay awards and inflation, but that

had virtually all gone, Sir Godfrey said.

He believed that the Government had been "too optimistic" in its forecast in the Public Expenditure White Paper of the reduction in teacher numbers over the next few years.

The 18 per cent comparability award for teachers recommended by the Clegg commission is very close to both the Government's and many of the local authorities' own estimates of what the proposed award would be.

Most of the authorities I spoke to yesterday were confident that they had put enough in their contingency funds to meet the Clegg award. They were more worried about the teachers' 1980 pay claim for 20 per cent.

Some authorities have not put enough aside and they will face serious difficulties, particularly those covering rural areas which had hoped to make savings by charging for school transport.

Furthermore, few authorities believe that they can make the kind of savings on school meals that the Government assumed would be made in drawing up its rate support grant. The money will have to be found by cuts in other areas.

No official comment will be made by the local authorities until the Clegg report on teachers' pay until after the meetings tomorrow and on Friday of the management side of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on

teachers' pay before the full meeting of the Burnham Committee later on Friday.

But there was a general feeling among local authorities yesterday that the Clegg recommendations would be met in full and that there would be no attempt at that stage to tie them to teachers' conditions of service; that will probably be brought up again during negotiations on the teachers' 1980 claim.

Scottish anger: Teachers in Scotland are angry over the treatment they received in the Clegg report. They said that the report was a "disgrace" and that the Clegg commission's failure to recommend specific scales for teachers in Scotland.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, which represents four fifths of the 60,000 teachers in Scotland, said that there was enormous indignation over the Clegg commission's failure to recommend specific scales for teachers in Scotland.

The commission suggested in its report, published on Monday, that the salary scales for teachers in England and Wales might be applied to Scotland in order to eliminate the disparities in pay. Scottish teachers on the whole were paid less.

The commission noted that both teachers and management in Scotland believed that some aspects of their structure were preferable to the arrangements in England and Wales. It felt in no position to question their view.

Mr David Aaronovitch: Backing for review of strategy.

New student leader is a communist

From Lucy Hodges

Blackpool

The National Union of Students elected the fourth communist president in its history at its annual conference in Blackpool yesterday. He is Mr David Aaronovitch, aged 25, a history graduate of Manchester University and a member of the Left Alliance, which has dominated the NUS executive for the past year.

Despite his membership of the Euro-communist movement, his views are in line with the pragmatic approach of today's student body. Mr Aaronovitch went out of his way to criticize the activities of the extreme left wing, who barracked the Conservative mayor of Blackpool throughout his speech yesterday.

For the second successive conference, a group of a hundred students booed and chanted slogans such as "Tories out" and "They say cut back, we say fight back". At the mayor, Mr Robert Dewhurst, they had no manners, he told them.

It would be a lot more difficult to persuade the public that Britain needed its 1,200,000 NUS members after such scenes, Mr Aaronovitch declared. These scenes have shown the student attitude. They are in a space ship a million miles away. I cannot think of one college where students would condone that kind of behaviour.

Mr Aaronovitch, who was sent down from Balliol College, Oxford, after his first year, is a Communist. He comes from a communist family in north London.

The new NUS president, who went to a comprehensive school and then to William Ellis, the former grammar school in north London, said he had been told by Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary of State for Education, that his honesty and conscientiousness, although he did not share his political views.

Last night the executive was confident it had won approval for its policy of prioritizing after an overwhelming show of hands in favour. Mr Aaronovitch has staked his future on this strategy, to streamline the NUS and concentrate on national lobbying for bread-and-butter issues, rather than on broad-based campaigns about political and social issues.

All five full-time posts on the union executive went to the Left Alliance. Mr Leighton Andrews, one of the five new officers, is the first Liberal to hold such a post.

Leading article, page 15

Devolution does not offer the final solution, Irish minister says

Ulster talks end with no sign of accord

From Christopher Thomas

Dublin

The first top-level political exchanges between Dublin and Westminster for six months ended last night without any sign that the two governments were able to narrow their differences over Northern Ireland.

The key issues raised in a day of talks at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin between Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, were: the prison H blocks; the constitutional guarantee on Ulster's position within the United Kingdom; the cross-border electricity link; and the Government's position on Irish unity and said that while devolution was good in itself, it did

not offer a final solution that lay in a wider context.

The one area of accord was on the need to restore a 275,000-vote cross-border constituency for the Republic of Ireland, which would be a "major step" towards "normalizing" the situation in the north.

Mr Lenihan expressed his concern over the situation in the H blocks in the Maze Prison, near Belfast, but there was no Irish response from Mr Atkins.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, who has a reputation of involving himself closely in all government departments, "intercepted" the talks, Mr Atkins said. Mr Robert Adams, the British Ambassador in Dublin, said Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Justice Minister, for lunch.

The talks were the first since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in December 1985.

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£1m bomb damage to hotels in Ulster

From Our Correspondent

Belfast

Damage totalling more than £1m was caused by bombs in three hotels in Northern Ireland yesterday. The Provisional IRA said the bombs were directed against the talks which Mr Humphrey Atkins, Northern Ireland Secretary of State, was having in Dublin with Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic.

Mr Haughey was in the hotel when the bombs were exploded. Several people living near the hotel were carried to safety. The blast broke windows 150 yards away.

In Armagh the Charlemagne Hotel was severely damaged when the car containing the bomb exploded shortly before 11 am. The front part of the hotel was destroyed.

A statement by the Provisional IRA said that the only matter which should be discussed between Mr Atkins and Mr Haughey was British withdrawal from Northern Ireland. Anything else would be a "sell-out" by the Republic's Government.

The car used by the terrorists had been commandeered from a family living in a housing estate. The bombers, wearing masks, had held the family at gunpoint in the night before driving to plant the bombs about 10 am yesterday.

At Lisburn the Woodlands Hotel was extensively damaged. Four people were injured. A warning had been given but the police had difficulty in clearing the area completely. Some elderly people living near the hotel were carried to safety. The blast broke windows 150 yards away.

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First move in Labour 'missile ban' battle

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

First moves in the battle to force a future Labour Government to commit itself to a nuclear missile ban were made yesterday by the party's international committee when it decided that the policy statement which it had brought before the special conference of the party for approval at Middlesbrough on May 31.

The draft statement from the research department, which incorporated various decisions made by annual conferences in recent years, covering defence expenditure, nuclear weapons, and sales and aid to underdeveloped countries.

But the committee, under the chairmanship of Miss Joan Lester, MP for Eton and Slough, and dominated by left-wingers, decided to toughen the wording and to commit a future Labour Government to specific action.

If the revised draft is approved today by the special committee set up to receive recommendations from all party committees, and if it is later approved by the conference, Mr Callaghan could find that he leads a party committed to refusing the deployment of nuclear missiles in the United Kingdom, and against the production of a new generation of nuclear weapons to succeed the Polaris missiles.

Such a decision by the special conference would revive the bitter interparty arguments that took place when the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was a strong force in politics and within the Labour Party. It

was a decision which would have a major impact on the party's foreign policy.

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Report fails to end ban on resort

By Our Labour Staff

Sunny Scarborough will continue to have a cloud of TUC wrath hanging over it after the publication of a report yesterday which fails to resolve a dispute over union recognition of hotel workers.

The town, once a favoured resort for union conferences, has been blacked by the TUC because the management of the Crown Hotel refused to grant bargaining rights to the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU) on behalf of staff.

Most unions have followed the TUC advice not to go to

Scarborough, although a handful of unions were unable to make alternative arrangements and will still be holding their conferences there this year.

Under the section 11 of the Employment Protection Act, soon to be repealed, the GMWU made a claim for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to carry out an investigation of its claim for recognition.

The Acas report published yesterday comes to no conclusion because the owners of the Crown, D.P. Hotel (Scarborough) Ltd, refused to co-operate with the service in

attempts to ascertain the views of the 30 or so workers employed at the hotel.

Acas says the union claimed last year, when the reference under the Act was made, that its membership had declined from almost 100 per cent to 65 per cent, but the company said it was not convinced that there was a real decline in support for the union among its employees.

The company refused to circulate a questionnaire to its employees but a list of questions from Acas sent directly to 29 employees produced only nine responses.

£1.5M to set up management training centre

By Our Education Correspondent

Nene College of Higher Education, in Northampton, has been given £1,500,000 by the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation to establish a management training centre to provide intensive residential courses for middle and senior managers.

The gift, announced yesterday, is one of the largest made to an educational establishment. Building will start immediately. It is hoped the centre will be ready to receive students by next autumn.

The centre will be called the Blackwood Hodge management centre after the earth-moving industrial group founded by the late Bernard Sunley in 1941. It will be a two-storey residential wing with 32 study-bedrooms, each with a bathroom.

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Belfast hospital strike ends

From Our Correspondent

Belfast

Ancillary staff at the Royal Victoria Hospital, in Belfast, decided at a mass meeting yesterday morning to return to work.

The stoppage, which was unofficial, had been called by shop stewards in an effort to get the Army out of the hospital and to prevent the installation of security cameras.

Mr John Coulthard, regional organiser of the National Union of Public Employees, said that two branches of the union were calling for the expulsion of Mr Brian Sullivan, the strike leader, claiming that he had brought the union into disrepute.

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Left's ploy to head off reselection storm

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Labour left-wingers were seen last night by some of their "moderate" colleagues to be involved in a ploy to head off a further storm over mandatory submission for reselection before each general election.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, has been informed of the concern of the moderates. They believe, in blunt terms, that the left wants to "buy off" any dissident MP standing as an independent to prevent a possible challenge to parliamentary severance pay.

The party's organization committee this week approved a resolution which stated that an MP who "for any reason" retired from the House of Commons, or was defeated at a general election, should be entitled to receive one year's parliamentary salary.

Under present regulations an MP has to be defeated at a general election before he is entitled to severance pay. That is why a number of right-wing MPs under threat in their constituencies have indicated that they will stand as independents if they are dismissed as official Labour candidates.

Any move would clearly

split the Labour vote in a constituency, and it is part of the counter-argument against mandatory submission for reselection, whereby each MP has to present himself to a constituency party selection conference before each general election.

Retirement for any reason removes the conditions for entitlement to severance pay, and goes beyond existing parliamentary regulations.

A defeated MP is entitled to three months' salary, though a resolution of the Commons on March 4 introduced a sliding scale of between six months' and a year's salary, depending

on service and salary. The organization wants a future Labour Government to bring in legislation which would allow a party executive to dismiss a general secretary not by the party, but by the party.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

ELECTION OF ONE SPECIAL MEMBER AND FOUR REGIONAL MEMBERS TO THE MILK MARKETING BOARD 1980

The Milk Marketing Board hereby announces as follows:

1. The Board has determined the retirement date for 1980 as midnight on Tuesday, 16 September 1980.

2. One Special Member of the Board and one Regional Member for each of the North-Western, South Wales, Southern and Mid-Western Regions have to be elected.

3. The Board are prepared to receive nominations of candidates for these elections. Such nominations must be received by the Board at the Board's offices at 7 Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 p.m. on Monday, 9 June 1980.

4. Every person so nominated as a candidate for election as a Special or Regional Member of the Board must deposit with the Secretary of the Board not later than 6 p.m. on Monday, 9 June 1980, the sum of £200.00 in legal tender.

5. No person shall be qualified to be elected as a Special Member of the Board unless he or she has been nominated in writing as a candidate by at least twenty registered producers entitled to vote in that election or by a County Branch of the National Farmers' Union of the Region.

6. No person shall be qualified to be elected as a Regional Member and as a Regional Member at the same time.

7. A candidate may withdraw from his or her candidature by a written notice to that effect provided it is delivered at the offices of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 p.m. on Thursday, 12 June 1980.

8. Any election literature issued by or on behalf of a candidate should bear the name and address of the person issuing it and the name of the candidate on whose behalf it is issued.

NOTE: Candidates in the Special Member election of which notice is given on this page may be interested to know that the Board have agreed to offer each properly nominated candidate (if more than one) the opportunity for a 1,000-word election address, prepared by the candidate and reproduced by the Board, to be distributed with the voting papers to all producers at a cost to each candidate of £200.

Candidates who wish to avail themselves of this service must submit copy to the Secretary of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, so that it and the fee of £200 are received by him not later than Wednesday, 18 June 1980. If advance notice of an intention to make use of this service can be given it will be administratively most helpful.

The Board will, on request, continue to provide candidates for any of the elections of which notice is given on this page with copies of the entries appearing on the Board's Register of Producers, or any part thereof, at a fee of £1.50 per 1,000 entries copied.

Any election literature issued by or on behalf of a candidate should bear the name and address of the person issuing it and the name of the candidate on whose behalf it is issued.

NOTE: The Board have, in accordance with Paragraph 32 of the Milk Marketing Scheme 1973, determined the rules governing the nomination and election of candidates. The rules as to nomination are summarised in the above notice, those relating to election may be obtained from the Board, by duly nominated candidates.

Hearing soon on steel documents

The British Steel Corporation employee who leaked important documents to Granada Television's World in Action programme may "strike again" if the order for the disclosure of his name is delayed, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Watkins, VC, agreed to hear as quickly as possible Granada's appeal from the judgment of Sir Robert Megarry, the Vice-Chancellor, ordering them to identify the leak to the BSC. The court said it would hear the case either later this week or certainly next Monday.

The order for Granada to name the informant will be suspended until the appeal is heard.

Yesterday, for the first time, Mr Alexander Irvine, QC, for Granada, disclosed that the source of the leak was definitely a BSC employee and that the documents were handed to Granada in January. He said the appeal should be heard soon.

BSC, he said, wanted an expedited hearing, because of "the fear of the corporation, claims it entertains that the source may strike again, and further documents will be revealed which the corporation would prefer to remain private".

Mr Hoffman said that though the steel strike was over, the corporation was still involved in policy formation of a highly controversial kind. It was entitled to be apprehensive that this gentleman "through what he regarded as a sense of public duty would disclose further documents."

Lord Denning asked: "Have you no idea who he is?"

Mr Hoffman replied: "We have no idea. We are able to limit the number of people it can be, and that gives rise to the other difficulty, the atmosphere of suspicion."

Therapists say strike is on after pay talks collapse

By a Staff Reporter

A one-day strike in hospitals throughout the country by radiographers, physiotherapists, radiographers, physiotherapists and radiographers, is expected after the collapse of pay negotiations yesterday.

The talks broke down over emergency duty allowances, which particularly affect Britain's 10,000 radiographers, but the pay deal is being treated as a package and the radiographers

have the support of the therapists.

The management side of the Whitley Council, the pay negotiating body, has said that any increase in emergency duty allowances will have to come out of next year's pay offer.

Mrs Lesley Payne, assistant industrial relations officer of the Society of Radiographers, said: "We are seeking an urgent meeting with the health minister."

Korchnoi leads the field on his own

By Harry Colombeck

Chess Correspondent

Viktor Korchnoi took the sole lead in the Philips and Drew King's Grandmaster chess tournament at County Hall, London, yesterday.

He won a lively encounter in 40 moves in the fifth round against John Nunn in a game in which the young English grandmaster was by no means disgraced. He sacrificed a bishop for three pawns and then, just when he had a draw in hand, blundered by playing the moves in the wrong order.

A little short of time, he wrongly thought that the order in which he played for the ending was immaterial.

That was a pity from the English point of view, since Nunn had played extremely well up to that point; but Korchnoi, fully deserves to be in the lead, if only for the exciting style of play with which he approaches every game.

Two of the other leaders, Giorghiu and Sosonko, met in this round but contented themselves with a quick draw in 16 moves. Timman drew a little harder to beat Anderson; but there too the draw came early, after 20 moves.

All the other games were fiercely contested. Spelman looked to have a level position against Miles, but left himself with too little time to play the

Day of action is denounced by union's leaders

The TUC's planned day of action on May 14 was denounced yesterday by leaders of the 420,000-strong electricians' union as both "unwise and untimely".

The executive of the right-wing Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, headed by Mr Frank Chapple, said it believed there was a "serious danger that such action will push us closer to a general strike".

Korchnoi leads the field on his own

By Harry Colombeck

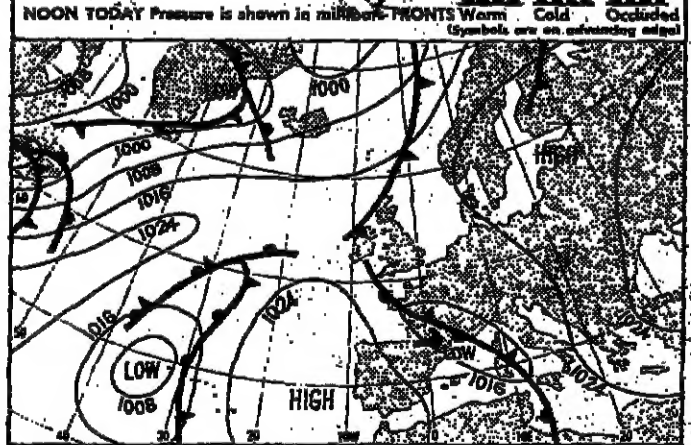
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Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are as on standard maps.

Today: Sun rises: 6.3 am. Moon rises: 7.53 pm. Sun sets: 7.53 pm. Moon sets: 8.47 pm.

First quarter: April 22. Lifting up: 5.25 to 5.31 am. High water: London Bridge 3.19 am, 7.5m; 3.49 pm, 7.7m. A low: 12.30 am, 1.4m; 1.4m; 9.25 pm, 1.4m. Dover: 12.9 am, 1.4m; 12.33 pm, 6.9m. Hull: 7.51 am, 7.8m; 8.3 pm, 8.0m. Liverpool: 12.38 am, 9.9m; 12.57 pm, 10.1m. Lm=3.2808ft.

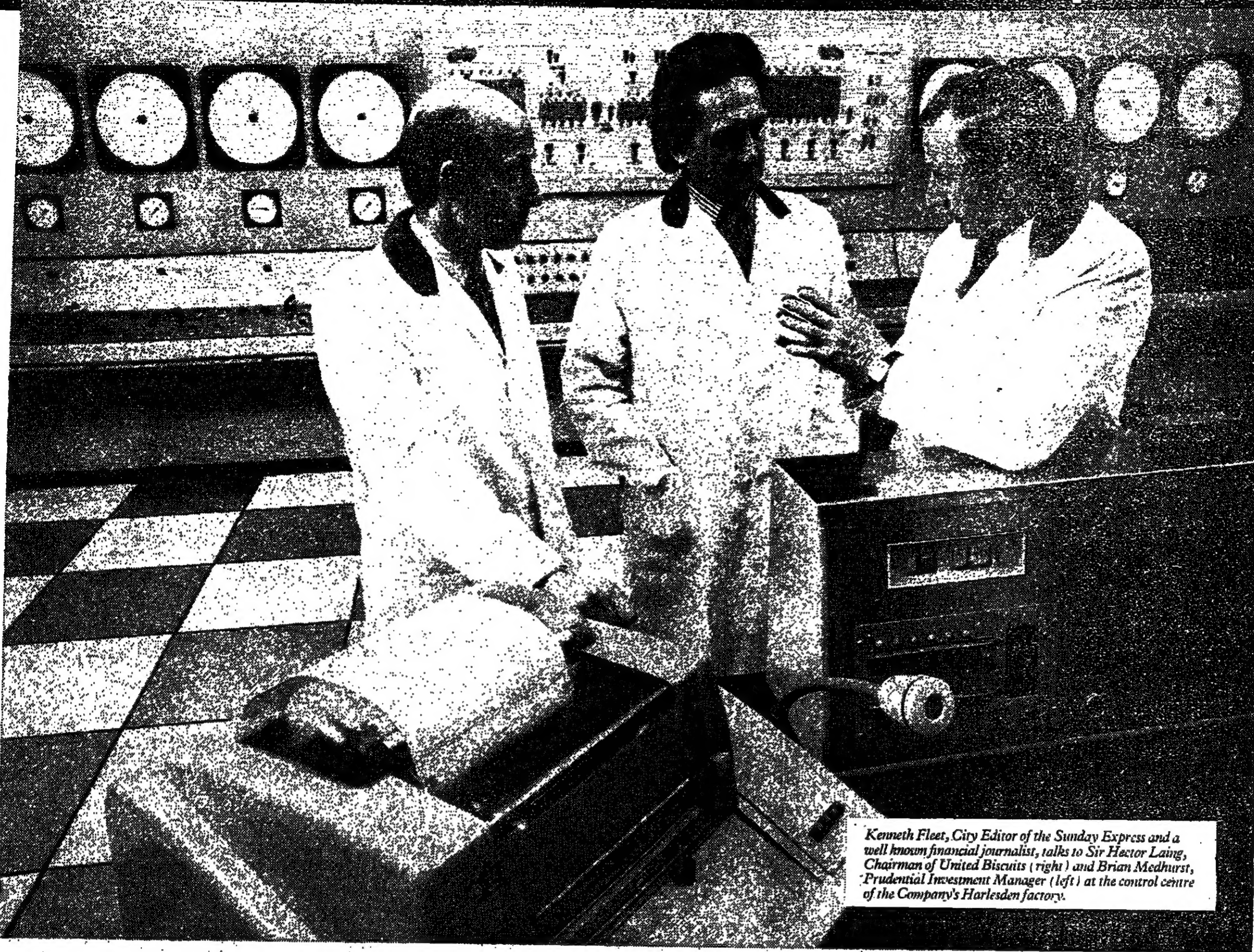
An area of slack pressure covers the country. Forecast from 6 am to midnight: London, SE England: Dry, sunny intervals; wind E, light; max temp 17° to 19°C (63° to 66°F). East Angles, E. England: Dry, sunny periods; wind SE, light; max temp 18° to 20°C (64° to 68°F).

Central S, SW England, Channel Islands: S Wales: Mostly dry, rather cloudy; wind NE, light; max temp 13° to 15°C (55° to 59°F). Midlands, N Wales, NW, Central N England, Lake District: Dry, hazy sunshine; wind variable, light; max temp 19° to 21°C (66° to 70°F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind variable, light; max temp 14° to 16°C (57° to 61°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY: MIDDAY: c, cloud; t, talk; r, rain; s, sun; f, fog; h, hail; w, wind; v, variable; l, light; m, moderate; s, strong; v, very; e, extreme; n, none; a, all; o, other; u, unknown; i, information; d, data; e, evidence; p, proof; q, question; r, reason; s, sense; t, taste; v, vision; w, will; x, extra; y

Prudential profile No.1: Kenneth Fleet reporting



Kenneth Fleet, City Editor of the Sunday Express and a well known financial journalist, talks to Sir Hector Laing, Chairman of United Biscuits (right) and Brian Medhurst, Prudential Investment Manager (left) at the control centre of the Company's Harlesden factory.

"The Prudential invests £3 million a day. At the control centre of United Biscuits I find out where some of it goes."

The Prudential invests up to £3 million a day. The selection of companies in which it invests is based on more than abstract analysis of performance and prospects, as Kenneth Fleet discovered when he accompanied Brian Medhurst on one of his regular visits to Prudential-backed companies. We join them in conversation with Sir Hector Laing at Europe's biggest biscuit factory.

Fleet: The Prudential is the largest institutional investor in the UK. How many companies have you invested in?

Brian Medhurst: (Prudential Investment Manager) In the United Kingdom, we have investments worth more than £1 billion, spread over 600 companies. Our holdings, however, range from a very small percentage in some to more than 7% of the capital of others.

Fleet: How do you regard your relationship with these companies?

Medhurst: One of active interest in the progress of what is usually a long term involvement. We know how much we can do on successful and enlightened management, and so we try to gain at first hand a clear understanding of management philosophy and attitudes.

Sir Hector Laing: (Chairman of United Biscuits) An approach which we welcome. We don't feel the Pru is prying into our affairs. We like to give them confidence that our policies are sound. It is a great company, with which we are proud to be associated. With their expertise, investing as they do in a very wide range of companies, sometimes the questions they ask us engage our thinking. They help us to form our ideas for the future.

Fleet: Do you at the Pru genuinely know and understand the manufacturing industry?

Medhurst: If we didn't, you might well ask what we have been doing for the past 30 years: for during that period we have built up a team of investment specialists who have been closely involved in studying companies and the industries in which we invest. I believe we know a lot about industry. What we do not know is how to manage industry, but that is not our job. You might say we are in the business of identifying and backing good management.

Fleet: Does the Pru's size make you vulnerable to outside pressures?

Medhurst: Public and political opinion is focused on the way we behave. If we don't handle our responsibilities well, we are going to be criticised. The pendulum has swung considerably in recent years from an objection to 'interference' to one favouring active concern and involvement. We are glad it has. Our wish to get closer to companies is now seen in a favourable light.

Fleet: What is your attitude, Sir Hector, to so-called 'interference' in board room matters by institutional shareholders like the Pru?

Laing: If the Pru appeared to be 'interfering' in our company, it would indicate to me that they thought our plans, or our performance, were not good enough. Long before that arose, I would welcome somebody from the Prudential coming to talk to us about their worries. I would not consider it as interference, but rather as taking a responsible interest.

Fleet: So you have the kind of confidence in the Prudential which you hope the Pru has in United Biscuits?

Laing: Yes. Confidence has got to be earned on both sides. We have total confidence in them, and so far, I hope, we have shown that they can have total confidence in us.

Fleet: Is the relationship between you a developing one?

Laing: Yes, it is. In the old family business days, the owners could not take their money out at short notice. The same is true of major institutional shareholders today.

Fleet: Can you, Brian, still vote with your feet?

Medhurst: Collectively we cannot, for one institution would most likely be selling to another. So, having developed confidence between ourselves and a company over the years, if there are weaknesses we can make suggestions and hope for a positive response. This is in everyone's interest and much better than simply selling our shares.

Fleet: Do you feel a social responsibility when you invest, which goes beyond getting the best possible return for your policyholders and shareholders?

Medhurst: There really is no conflict here. Our responsibility is primarily to the 8 million policyholders whose savings we are managing and we are committed, in a very competitive world, to achieving the best return on these savings. But society benefits from our channelling these resources into areas likely to produce the best return.

The Prudential's annual report is now available from the Publicity Department, Prudential Assurance Company Limited, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

Prudential

You don't know the half of it.

HOME NEWS

Eire campaign to legalize divorce opens to a discouraging statement from Mr Haughey

Hopes for an early change in the Irish Republic's controversial divorce laws were dashed yesterday by Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, just as a reform campaign got under way.

He told the Dail that there were no plans to alter the republic's constitution to permit divorce.

Failed marriage partners have had to be content with the legal classification "separated" since the republic's constitution was written 43 years ago. Separation orders do not allow remarriage. All demands for a change have been resisted by the Catholic Church and the Government.

Lead in petrol action called vexatious

By Nicholas Timmins

Attempts by the parents of two London children to have the permitted limit of lead in petrol lowered, and to seek damages for alleged injury suffered from the lead in car exhaust fumes, were attacked in the Court of Appeal yesterday by counsel for a petrol company as "vexatious" and "ill-founded".

BP Oil Ltd and Shell UK Ltd are taking for the claims to be struck out after a county court ruled that the two companies could be sued by Mr Nicholas Albery, on behalf of his son Merlyn, aged four, and by Mrs Eleanor Budden, on behalf of her son Fidel, also aged four. Both live in west London near the M40 and M41 urban motorways.

The parents claim that their children have excess body levels of lead to which they have been exposed since birth. Mr Albery's claim for damages is for the cost of medical treatment, and Mrs Budden's claim is for the cost of medical treatment, and for the cost of the children's education.

The action included the seeking of an injunction that would have the effect of lowering the lead content of petrol, and Mr Albery's proposed aim was "to

break down have three options open to them.

They can seek a judicial separation, an extremely expensive High Court procedure (only 39 were granted in 1978), which does not permit remarriage.

They can seek a civil decree of nullity, which is enormously difficult to obtain (eight were granted in 1978) and usually hinges on impotence or duress; remarriage is allowed but any existing children are considered illegitimate.

Thirdly, a couple can apply for a deed of separation, which is drawn up by a solicitor; while it does not permit remarriage by either partner, it puts their affairs on a legal basis.

Often among working-class couples the most usual procedure in marital breakdown is the application of the wife for a barring order, which bans the husband from the home and is often granted with a maintenance order.

benefit urban children generally from what he regards as the harmful and also unlawful effect of lead emitted with the exhaust fumes from motor cars.

Mr Albery was a "leading light" in Calip, the Campaign Against Lead in Petrol, and the action had been brought with the collateral objective of furthering a campaign to influence the Government and petrol manufacturers, to reduce still further the permitted limit of lead in petrol.

By seeking damages at this early stage, when the children were so young, the parents were "preparing to sacrifice their children's right to compensation in favour of getting some immediate quasi-political victory".

Mr Evans conceded that the issue was important and that people like Mr Albery might have a genuine concern.

But both BP and Shell had complied with lead content regulations, and since the early 1970s had been actively reducing the lead content. The claim that the companies had been acting unlawfully or even negligently was ill founded, and the court should say so.

The appeal is being heard before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Bridge, and Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce. The hearing continues today.

Armed gang get £500,000 in diamonds

By Our Crime Reporter

An armed gang yesterday stole diamonds worth more than £500,000 from a dealer near Hatton Garden, London. The robbers used portable radios to call up a waiting accomplice in a car for their escape.

The raid on Gemco Diamond Merchants, at 10 Ely Place, occurred as the company was opening for business. The gang, wearing masks and uniforms, are thought to have entered the building where the firm has its offices by scaling scaffolding left in an alley at the rear.

As the employees of Gemco arrived for work at the fourth-storey offices they were met by three men with coshes and a handgun.

Eight members of the staff were captured and handcuffed. Under duress the keys to the office safe were surrendered. Inside were cut, uncut and polished diamonds.

The gang fled from Ely Place without notice and the alarm was raised 13 minutes after their escape. The road leads to Holborn Circus, where the gang could have taken several routes in the morning traffic.

Last night Scotland Yard appealed for anyone who may have seen a car with a driver using a portable radio in the Ely Place area near by just after 9 a.m.

Detectives from the central robbery squad, led by Det Inspector Patrick Fleming, are investigating.



Taking the strain: Weightlifters in the first World Cup of Powerlifting, at Crystal Palace, London, yesterday, gathering their strength for a final big heave. From the top: Eddie Pengelly, of Britain, Gordon Catterton, of Canada, Don McVicar, of Canada, and Herman Nurse, of Britain. Pengelly, now a lightweight, was world featherweight champion.

Lord Kagan in Paris court today

From Arthur Osman

Paris, April 15

Lord Kagan, who is to appear before the Tribunal de Commerce of the Court of Appeal in Paris tomorrow, claimed today that charges of theft, which he denied, had been brought against him by the Customs and Excise to add weight to Britain's demand for his extradition from France.

He told Maître Jean-Pierre Karsenty, his lawyer, that the allegation of theft of indigo dye from his own company, Kagan Textiles of Eiland, West Yorkshire, had been brought against him by the French court, which would not have acted on charges involving infringements of exchange control regulations and fraudulent irregularities in Britain.

Maître Karsenty saw Lord Kagan twice today in the prison, where he has been since his arrest in Paris last week on an international warrant.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, today signed the extradition papers in London which will be presented to the Court of Appeal in Paris at the full hearing.

That now seems likely to take place next Wednesday. Maître Karsenty, who has yet to see the full file, said yesterday: "I am sure nothing will happen this week other than the full hearing will take place. That will be next Wednesday, because at this point they are in no position to go ahead with the case."

When I saw Lord Kagan today he wanted me to apply for bail but I had to advise him that I did not see why bail should be decided now. The court never grants bail until it has had a chance to see the full file, so I told him there was no use in asking for it tomorrow. Maître Karsenty said that if the court considered the theft allegations sufficiently serious,

his client would not be granted bail. But Lord Kagan had denied theft and had said that the theft charges had been preferred only to make extradition possible.

A court of appeal official said that pending the arrival of the official papers from London, Lord Kagan's court appearance would be formal and would involve only further establishment of his identity and reading allegations contained in the international arrest warrant. The British Embassy in Paris said it would be represented in court tomorrow.

The warrant on which the French police acted was issued in Leeds on April 1 and alleged four counts of theft and one of false accounting.

Next Monday Lord Kagan's eldest son, Mr Michael Kagan, aged 29, is to appear before Leeds magistrates on charges of theft.

TUC 'bastion of lace curtain discrimination'

By Peter Evans

The Confederation of Indian Organisations yesterday attacked the trade union movement as "the bastion of lace curtain discrimination in this country".

The criticism sprang from a meeting between the confederation and the race relations advisory committee of the Trades Union Congress.

The attack was a response to a letter from Mr J. Monks, secretary of the TUC's education and industrial relations department, about record keeping of personnel by ethnic origin as a means of monitoring whether discrimination takes place.

Mr Monks said that there were divided views within the trade union movement and on the committee about the acceptability of ethnic records in employment, especially of a blanket nature. He wrote to Mr Kanti Nagda, the confederation's general secretary: "The TUC does not wish to over-emphasize the significance of ethnic record keeping to the possible detriment of the pursuit by unions of an equal opportunities policy."

In certain circumstances record keeping will be indispensable, but in other cases the keeping of records may not be so important.

The confederation yesterday expressed regret at the TUC's divided views, and said: "Lack of equal opportunities for the non-white trade unionists both on the shop floor and more so in official level within the various trade unions is conspicuous."

Only by the enforcement of record keeping by law could racial discrimination in employment be overcome.

Bulk smuggling of cannabis rising

By Stewart Tindler

Crime Reporter

An agent of the Drug Enforcement Agency on the west coast of the United States said in a conversation last year: "If I had my time over again, I might go into marijuana. That is where the money is."

He and his superiors estimate that in 1978 cannabis produced in the United States was worth \$7,500m and \$12,000m in the United States. Smugglers brought in between 10,000 and 15,000 tons by road, sea and air for a market estimated to number more than 20 million Americans.

Yesterday's Operation Yashmak by British police and customs officers looks puny by comparison with such figures, but the large number of seizures made over the past few years in Britain show that bulk smuggling is becoming as well developed as in the United States.

Cannabis sativa in its various forms is claimed to be one of the world's oldest cultivated plants and has been grown all over the world. Scientists have raised it in a rooftop laboratory in the heart of London and with suitable refinements, inside the Arctic Circle.

The main sources for Britain and Europe are areas of north Africa and the Middle East, where Lebanon and Afghanistan have been big producers.

In the 1960s the smuggling was little more than the odd ounce hidden in a suitcase, but the amateur was rapidly overtaken by the enterprising professional, who began to use hidden compartments in vehicles shipped or driven from the growing areas.

The distillation of hash oil, a liquid concentrate of THC, the active ingredient in cannabis, boosted smuggling further. The oil could be shipped into special petrol tanks and easily drained off.

In another form, it has been smuggled in large quantities, then shaped and painted over. The means of transport has also become more sophisticated. Recent cases have involved lorries and the faster crates with specially designed national borders.

In the United States, smugglers have been outwitting federal law enforcement.

Yachts and other vehicles on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts have been cases of bulk smuggling. Mediterranean is police forces best effort to stem it. Morocco is a vital link in the Strait of Gibraltar.

A month ago £2m was found in a car and last month a car was recovered in Op Cornwall. Last year Crisp sent more than 100 cars to the United States. It is said to be a total of 10 years that estimate validity.

One way of market would be the number of the last large haul. In the early 1970s four million pounds were thought to be worth of hash or weed.

Given the seized, it must be a figure that is dropped and it is a steady decline. Cannabidiol to £40 an ounce and hash up to £30.

Competitors can win grand piano

By Martin Huckerby

Music Reporter

The Leeds International Piano Competition has received a big boost in financial support. The main sponsor, Harrogate of Bristol, is increasing its aid by about half.

Miss Fanny Waterman, the chairman of the triennial competition, said yesterday that the company had also agreed to guarantee the "organisation against any loss."

Next year the overall winner will receive, in addition to the first prize of £2,000, a Steinway grand piano worth £3,000, presented by the friends of the competition with help from private donors.

Cash prizes for next year's competition, which will take place in September, will total £6,000, but more important to the young contestants will be the offers of concert and recital engagements all over the world. Engagements arranged for the winners' pianists' were worth £50,000, Miss Waterman said.

The competition will be held in Leeds this weekend, to the heads of the world's leading music competitions; the city is the venue for the annual meeting of the Federation of Musicians' International de Musique.

The delegate will be entertained at a concert on Saturday night at which the young soloists will be the violinist Vanya Milanova, the pianist Andrei Schiff, and the oboist Malcolm Messiter.

BBC's of radi gain di

By Our Arts

Figures from the BBC show that the radio has increased its audience by 10 per cent in the last year.

The BBC's radio listener figures for the last quarter of this year showed, it said, that 2 were up and Radio 4 by no significant amount. There was a drop in local radio listeners.

In London the final quarter of the order of Radio 2, Radio Capital and London.

Mr Tony Stoll, the Association's Radio Contractor, did his research purposes and figures when it to it.

"We don't give credence to the last radio audience very well indeed BBC's promotion television."

Calling for joint studies said the BBC was that the BBC and the association out by an independent.

Award for captain's v who helped boat peop

Mrs Mildred Martin, a sea captain's wife, who helped to rescue more than 1,000 Vietnamese refugees from the South China Sea, received a Government award yesterday.

She was travelling on her husband's ship, the Sibona, last year when they rescued two boatloads of exhausted refugees. For two days she worked almost without cease caring for the boat people until they reached Hong Kong.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, presented Mrs Martin of Sibona Co. Aintree, with a Secretary of State for Trade plate award in London.

The citation said: "Without doubt her actions saved a considerable number of lives, particularly those of children and women."

"She worked each day, washing, applying salves and aches, and assisting with the care of the babies until they were able to 'feeling'."

After the presentation Mrs Martin said: "I remember one of the children was blind and I communicated through me at Hong Kong. We both will remember it."

She added that she had particularly appreciated her own appreciation of her own.

Police chief report on Bristol riot

From Our Correspondent

Bristol

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Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 8

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Belvoir mining unnecessary, CPRE states

By Our Planning Reporter

No case had been made for the need for coal from the Vale of Belvoir strong enough to override the environmental disadvantages, Mr Fionn Holford, secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said yesterday.

Speaking at the start of the twenty-first week of the inquiry into the National Coal Board's proposals, he maintained that introducing three large mines would bring a transformation to industrialization.

The council considered that the board's application was premature and should be dismissed, he said; but if the Government were to accept that mining should take place, the scheme should not be accepted in its entirety and should be made conditional on the remote tipping of waste in the Bedfordshire clefites.

Mr Robin Grove-White, the council's assistant secretary, observed that the Government appeared to be more concerned with long-term supply than conservation of energy.

Unions consider BBC offer

Pay talks between the BBC and the unions representing its 23,000 staff were adjourned again yesterday after the making of an offer understood to be within the 16 per cent limit set by Mr Ian Trethowan, the director-general.

A joint statement said that both sides had agreed not to disclose details.

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Two Libyans remanded on journalist murder charge

Two Libyan students appeared at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday charged with the murder last Friday of Mr Mohammed Mustafa Ramadan, a Libyan journalist.

Ben-Hassan Elmasti, aged 26, and Nagib Gasmal, aged 28, were remanded in custody until tomorrow, when they will appear before Lambeth magistrates.

Mr Gasmal, of Princess Court, Queensway, London, is also charged with a number of firearms offences, including possession of a 38 Charter Arms special revolver and ammunition, and with using it to resist arrest.

Mr Elmasti, of Cornwall Gardens, South Kensington, London, is also charged with the same offences, including possession of a 38 Charter Arms special revolver and ammunition, and with using it to resist arrest.

Abdullah Bakir, aged 27, also a Libyan, of Cornwall Gardens, was remanded in custody until April 22 charged with knowingly remaining in Britain without permission.

Stabbed driver throws knife at attacker

A taxi driver pulled a knife with a six-inch blade from his chest and hurled it at his attacker in central London yesterday.

Mr Frederick Burland, aged 46, picked up a man with a foreign accent in Shaftesbury Avenue and took him to Crawford Street, Marylebone. The man spoke to Mr Burland, then stabbed him in the chest and ran off.

Mr Burland, of Scotswood Walk, Haringey, north London, threw the knife after his attacker but missed. He stopped a car and asked to be taken to hospital. He had an operation for a collapsed lung at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. His condition was said to be serious last night.

Gust locks blamed for air crash

From Our Correspondent

A faulty control mechanism may have been responsible for the crash of a Dan Air flight at Sumburgh airport which killed 17 people last July.

The aircraft, a Hawker Siddeley 748 built in 1962, with two previous Argentinian owners, had been fitted with non-standard parts without the approval of the manufacturers or the Civil Aviation Authority, or a fatal accident inquiry in Aberdeen was told yesterday.

The aircraft was carrying oil workers from Shellland to Aberdeen when it skidded off the end of a runway, crashing into the sea and killing the pilot, the copilot and 15 passengers. Twenty-seven people were saved.

Mr Charles Allen, principal accident investigator for the Department of Trade, told the inquiry that the gust control mechanism controlling the elevators and rudders could have been a possible cause of the accident.

If the mechanism was locked as the aircraft was under full power on the runway, it would be forced to the ground rather than rise up, consistent with the reported behaviour of the Dan Air aircraft, whose nose and left wing were down.

He said later that the Department of Trade during its investigation had reports from Dan Air pilots of occasional difficulty in releasing the gust locks.

Their investigators had found non-standard parts fitted to the aircraft. They had the same reports of non-standard parts

from other airlines, however. Mr Allen said they were still collecting data on the subject.

He agreed with Dan Air, Chuskey, representing Dan Air, that there was no evidence of engine failure and that he believed the pilot had made a "full and free" test of the aircraft's controls.

He also agreed that if the gust control had been locked the pilot could not have gone beyond taxiing speed and would never have reached take-off speed.

Miss Elizabeth Cove, aged 23, a stewardess of Aberdeen, described the last seconds of the aircraft. Sheriff Alistair MacDonald congratulated her on her "great courage and resourcefulness".

The inquiry is expected to last a fortnight.

Police chief report on Bristol riot

From Our Correspondent

Bristol

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the men out of their cells. Miss Susan McCormick, aged 35, the governess, then went forward to appeal to the prisoners, who agreed to come out.

Miss McCormick is preparing a report for Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

Next week nine prisoners are to appear before magistrates at Chipping Sodbury on charges which include criminal damage and insulting officers.

WEST EUROPE

Demand to impeach M Poniatowski over Broglie affair

From Charles Hargrave
Paris, April 15

The Gaullists want all light to be shed on the "Broglie affair", which is now called the "Poniatowski affair". M Claude Labbé, the chairman of the Gaullist parliamentary party, declared in the lobbies of the National Assembly today. The Communists find the revival of the controversy over the still obscure circumstances of Prince Broglie's assassination a heaven-sent opportunity to divert attention from the skeletons in the past of M Georges Marchais their leader.

They have tables a resolution demanding the impeachment of M Michel Poniatowski, the former Minister of the Interior, before the High Court of Justice accusing him of withholding from the judicial authorities the information contained in two police reports published by the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

These documents, of which the authenticity has not been challenged, indicated that the police knew (and the minister could not have ignored) that the victim's life had been threatened several months before he was shot in a Paris street on Christmas Eve, 1975, but did not warn him or take any preventive action. The documents were not included in the official file of the case.

The Socialist parliamentary group, which hesitated between support for the Communist resolution or tabling one of its own, decided on the second course. M Georges Fillouud, the spokesman for the Socialists, emphasized that the Socialist resolution was based on three accusations: non-assistance to persons in danger, violation of the secrecy of the judicial investigation, and withholding of documents from the investigating magistrate.

The Opposition can have no illusions about the success of its attempt to secure the impeachment of M Poniatowski, and has

resorted to this rusty legal weapon only to prevent the Government from quietly shelving the affair.

The High Court of Justice, the only one under the constitution, before which a minister can be called to account for his actions in office, has since its creation in 1958, sat only once—20 years ago, to sentence a former Vichy minister to 10 years of banishment.

The impeachment must be demanded in a resolution signed by 50 or more members of the assembly or the Senate. Then, after the steering committee of the House has declared the resolution receivable in form, it goes before a special committee of 15 members, selected in proportion to the strength of each political group.

If impeachment is recommended, it must be confirmed by an absolute majority of both Houses. The Opposition does not command one in the Assembly, and M Labbé said the Gaullists would not support it. But they insisted on a reopening of the judicial investigation of the case, which was closed a few weeks ago. If the Court of Appeal decided against it on Wednesday week, they would take some other initiative such as a demand for the setting up of a parliamentary commission of inquiry.

M Labbé added: "M Poniatowski would indict himself before the High Court of Justice if he did not shed sufficient light on the affair by other means."

"We will support any action capable of shedding light on an affair which involves the Minister of the Interior," he said. "The Opposition is a member of Parliament and also a serious matter—the possible responsibility of a Minister of the Interior."

M Poniatowski has denied that he ever had any knowledge of the contents of the two police reports, and dismissed the revival of the affair as a base political manoeuvre.

Coolness in Whitehall to Thatcher optimism

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The suggestion by Mrs Thatcher that "things are a little bit more optimistic than they were at Dublin" regarding Britain's demand for a reduction in contributions to the EEC budget yesterday went uncelebrated in Whitehall.

Her remark was made twice in a television interview on Monday evening, but beyond conceding a slight softening in the Prime Minister's language, officials saw no basic change in Britain's prospects for an agreed reduction.

Tone, however, can be very important in reaching agreement at an EEC summit. Mrs Thatcher now states not that we want "our money back", but that "we want a very substantial proportion of our net contribution back". She said that "there is still a lot of hard activity" at official level and "it's going on this week and next before the rearranged summit at Luxembourg on April 27 and April 28."

Mrs Thatcher, while not agreeing to the "package deal" in which Britain's demand would be bartered, suggested for more strongly than before that she was willing to settle at the same time as many of our partners' issues as possible.

This put in a softer light the hitherto rather stern condition that issues be settled "on their merits". She said: "They are saying to me 'Look, you are asking for more, we, Europe, should solve Britain's problems within a certain time-scale. We, too, have problems. Will you be cooperative in sorting out our problems as well?'"

"Now that's reasonable. It doesn't mean to say that we have one thing against another. It means that we consider the problems, each separately, on their merits but we consider them within roughly the same time-table."

OVERSEAS

US warns Tehran of Russian military build-up near frontier

From David Cross
Washington, April 15

The United States has warned Tehran that Iran's national security and general well-being are being increasingly threatened by its refusal to free the 53 American hostages.

In a television interview here last night, Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said that in addition to the various sanctions imposed on Iran and threatened by the United States and its allies "there are more immediate dangers confronting Iran closer to home".

He added: "There have been reports—I believe credible reports—of a steady build-up of Soviet forces in the Transcaucasian military district. This build-up, in some respects, in some patterns is reminiscent of the gradual Soviet build-up north of Afghanistan."

The area to which he referred is in the Soviet Union alongside the frontier with Turkey and Iran. Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, said last weekend that the number of Soviet troops now in Afghanistan had risen to at least 100,000 and possibly as many as 110,000. Earlier estimates by intelligence officials here had spoken of about 75,000 to 80,000 troops in Afghanistan proper and a further 20,000 or so on the Soviet side of the frontier.

Mr Brzezinski also mentioned the growing frontier tensions between Iran and the Soviet Union, and the danger to the national security of Iran. "If I were a responsible Iranian I would be concerned about the condition in which Iran finds itself today, largely because of actions undertaken by Iranians," he said.

His comments reflect continuing efforts by the Administration to secure the release of the hostages by trying to convince the Iranians that they have nothing to gain and much to lose by continuing to hold them. The feeling here is that this line of argument is probably accepted by President Bani-Sadr and Mr Sadeq Qorbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, but has been rejected out of hand by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

During the interview, Mr Brzezinski appeared confident that America's Japanese and West European allies would soon agree to introduce the economic sanctions against Iran requested by President Carter. He was careful not to criticize the lengthy deliberations of the allies, pointing out that in democratic countries it always took some time for the various options to be debated and then acted upon. He made it clear, however, that the Administration's patience towards Iran, in particular, was not inexhaustible.

There was some confusion here today about whether the two International Red Cross officials, who visited the Embassy in Tehran yesterday, saw all 50 captives believed to be held there. Both the officials and the militants holding the hostages refused to disclose the exact number of hostages who had been interviewed.

less the American hostages are freed, and for a specific date for the release of hostages by Iran. It requires Foreign Ministers of the Nine "to take all necessary and practicable steps" in full consultation with the United States and the Atlantic Alliance "to oblige the Iranian authorities to release the hostages" and to formulate a common policy.

Parliament's resolution will be sent to the European Summit meeting, the Council of Ministers, the Brussels Commission, the United Nations, and Iranian ambassadors accredited to the Nine.

In tomorrow's debate the European Parliament will vote on the resolution, which will be the last chance to influence the council of Ministers' decision, due in June, on the size of the Commission that will take over on January 1, 1981, and on the choice of the successor to Mr Roy Jenkins as President.

EEC dependence on Iran oil declines sharply

From Michael Horne
Brussels, April 15

The EEC's imports of oil from Iran declined sharply during the first three months of this year and accounted for no more than 5.5 per cent of the Community's total imports of crude, compared with 6.9 per cent in 1979 and 16.3 per cent in 1978.

This further evidence of the downward trend in the EEC's dependence on Iranian supplies considerably weakens the force of Tehran's threat to cut off oil if the Nine follow the Americans in imposing trade sanctions against Iran to support demands for the release of the American embassy hostages.

The EEC's imports of oil from Iran, a bigger proportion than any other member. The Germans argue that the EEC's dependence on Iranian supplies is a part of the EEC's policy of solidarity with the EEC with the necessary legal basis for the joint imposition of a trade embargo on Iran and thus obviates the difficulty of those countries, such as Britain, which are at present without the necessary national legislation to do so.

The provisional conclusion of the European Commission's lawyers is that Article 113 of the Rome treaty, which clearly identifies trade relations with the outside world as a Community competence, could be invoked to impose trade sanctions.

summaries of policies the party will urge the country to follow for the next six months. (There is a new set of slogans for the revolutionary parade in November.)

Party ideologists go to great pains to decide the exact wording and order in which these slogans appear. As in everything, the Russians have a hierarchical view of life: if a slogan slips down the hierarchy it means that this aspect is clearly of less urgency than it was. If an altogether new one appears, it reflects a new domestic concern or a changed international situation.

Western Sovietologists spend much time going through the list to spot the newcomers and those no longer considered appropriate.

This year's list comprises 75 slogans—seven more than last year. The general order is the same, and follows the order adopted by all Soviet media in presenting news: party affairs first, followed by slogans dealing with the Soviet Government and institutions, workers and trade unions, the armed forces, industry, agriculture, science, the arts and sports.

The second half deals with relations overseas: fraternal

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The United States has warned Tehran that Iran's national security and general well-being are being increasingly threatened by its refusal to free the 53 American hostages.

In a television interview here last night, Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said that in addition to the various sanctions imposed on Iran and threatened by the United States and its allies "there are more immediate dangers confronting Iran closer to home".

He added: "There have been reports—I believe credible reports—of a steady build-up of Soviet forces in the Transcaucasian military district. This build-up, in some respects, in some patterns is reminiscent of the gradual Soviet build-up north of Afghanistan."

The area to which he referred is in the Soviet Union alongside the frontier with Turkey and Iran. Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, said last weekend that the number of Soviet troops now in Afghanistan had risen to at least 100,000 and possibly as many as 110,000. Earlier estimates by intelligence officials here had spoken of about 75,000 to 80,000 troops in Afghanistan proper and a further 20,000 or so on the Soviet side of the frontier.

Mr Brzezinski also mentioned the growing frontier tensions between Iran and the Soviet Union, and the danger to the national security of Iran. "If I were a responsible Iranian I would be concerned about the condition in which Iran finds itself today, largely because of actions undertaken by Iranians," he said.

His comments reflect continuing efforts by the Administration to secure the release of the hostages by trying to convince the Iranians that they have nothing to gain and much to lose by continuing to hold them. The feeling here is that this line of argument is probably accepted by President Bani-Sadr and Mr Sadeq Qorbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, but has been rejected out of hand by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

During the interview, Mr Brzezinski appeared confident that America's Japanese and West European allies would soon agree to introduce the economic sanctions against Iran requested by President Carter. He was careful not to criticize the lengthy deliberations of the allies, pointing out that in democratic countries it always took some time for the various options to be debated and then acted upon. He made it clear, however, that the Administration's patience towards Iran, in particular, was not inexhaustible.

There was some confusion here today about whether the two International Red Cross officials, who visited the Embassy in Tehran yesterday, saw all 50 captives believed to be held there. Both the officials and the militants holding the hostages refused to disclose the exact number of hostages who had been interviewed.

less the American hostages are freed, and for a specific date for the release of hostages by Iran. It requires Foreign Ministers of the Nine "to take all necessary and practicable steps" in full consultation with the United States and the Atlantic Alliance "to oblige the Iranian authorities to release the hostages" and to formulate a common policy.

Parliament's resolution will be sent to the European Summit meeting, the Council of Ministers, the Brussels Commission, the United Nations, and Iranian ambassadors accredited to the Nine.

In tomorrow's debate the European Parliament will vote on the resolution, which will be the last chance to influence the council of Ministers' decision, due in June, on the size of the Commission that will take over on January 1, 1981, and on the choice of the successor to Mr Roy Jenkins as President.

EEC dependence on Iran oil declines sharply

From Michael Horne
Brussels, April 15

The EEC's imports of oil from Iran declined sharply during the first three months of this year and accounted for no more than 5.5 per cent of the Community's total imports of crude, compared with 6.9 per cent in 1979 and 16.3 per cent in 1978.

This further evidence of the downward trend in the EEC's dependence on Iranian supplies considerably weakens the force of Tehran's threat to cut off oil if the Nine follow the Americans in imposing trade sanctions against Iran to support demands for the release of the American embassy hostages.

The EEC's imports of oil from Iran, a bigger proportion than any other member. The Germans argue that the EEC's dependence on Iranian supplies is a part of the EEC's policy of solidarity with the EEC with the necessary legal basis for the joint imposition of a trade embargo on Iran and thus obviates the difficulty of those countries, such as Britain, which are at present without the necessary national legislation to do so.

The provisional conclusion of the European Commission's lawyers is that Article 113 of the Rome treaty, which clearly identifies trade relations with the outside world as a Community competence, could be invoked to impose trade sanctions.

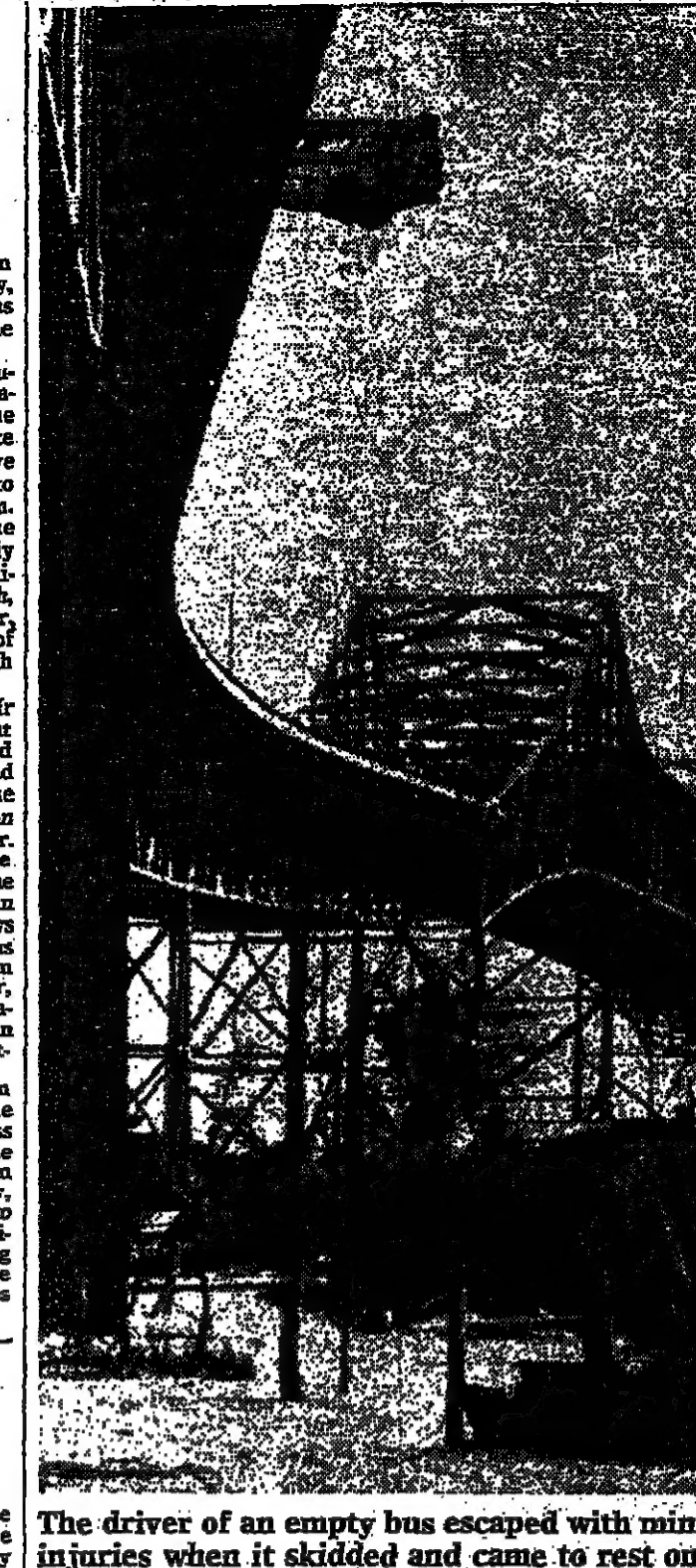
summaries of policies the party will urge the country to follow for the next six months. (There is a new set of slogans for the revolutionary parade in November.)

Party ideologists go to great pains to decide the exact wording and order in which these slogans appear. As in everything, the Russians have a hierarchical view of life: if a slogan slips down the hierarchy it means that this aspect is clearly of less urgency than it was. If an altogether new one appears, it reflects a new domestic concern or a changed international situation.

Western Sovietologists spend much time going through the list to spot the newcomers and those no longer considered appropriate.

This year's list comprises 75 slogans—seven more than last year. The general order is the same, and follows the order adopted by all Soviet media in presenting news: party affairs first, followed by slogans dealing with the Soviet Government and institutions, workers and trade unions, the armed forces, industry, agriculture, science, the arts and sports.

The second half deals with relations overseas: fraternal



The driver of an empty bus escaped with minor injuries when it skidded and came to rest on a motorway parapet near Chicago.

Britain to give £75m in aid to Zimbabwe

From David Cross
London, April 15

A substantial aid programme to Zimbabwe, amounting to £75m over next three years, was announced yesterday by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary.

The aid includes a grant of £7m for urgent postwar reconstruction and an allocation of £500,000 for joint funding with British voluntary agencies and help for refugees.

The bulk of the money will be devoted to a bilateral aid programme allocated in agreement with the new Government. Lord Carrington said that a mission from the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) would be visiting the country soon after independence day on Friday to identify projects with incoming ministers.

At the request of the new Government Britain was providing assistance with police training, broadcasting, the civil service and the foreign service. There was also to be separate provision, apart from the aid programme, for assistance with the training of the future Zimbabwe Army.

Because of the exceptional circumstances, Lord Carrington said, the £75m would be made available over the next two years from the public expenditure contingency reserve as part of the Zimbabwe aid programme. That would reduce the impact of the substantial pledge of the new Government on the level of British assistance to other countries.

Welcoming Zimbabwe's accession to the Commonwealth as the forty-third member, Lord Carrington in the Lords and Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, in the Commons, announced that the state would be wiped clean in respect of both political and sanctions offences.

After the general amnesty extended by the Governor to cover all political offences up to the election, there would be no further prosecutions for sanctions offences. Sir Ian, faced with considerable criticism from the Labour benches over the sanctions decision, told the Commons that only one case, on appeal, was now before the courts and no other prosecutions were pending.

The amnesty, he added, would not reopen past judgments. But Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said it was a serious mistake to extend the amnesty to British firms who had broken sanctions. It was the Government's duty to uphold its own laws.

While Lord Gorman Robert, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman in the Lords, approved the aid programme, describing it as substantial, Mr Shore in the Commons, expressed his concern that it might not be enough considering the assessment made three years ago that the sum needed was £500m and £750m. He suggested that the Government was going about things in the wrong way and that it was absurd to present the House with a figure before the assessments of need were made.

It is hoped that the scale of the British contribution will encourage other powerful Western donors to provide large sums for the country's rehabilitation programme.

A spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said today that the world cost of new displaced people and refugees returning home after the war

Five-nation force to be created by Arab

From Michael Knip
Tel Aviv, April 15

The Arab Summit called in Tripoli agreed military force to be created by the Arab League. The summit also agreed to a final compromise three days of deliberations—Algeria, Syria, South Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organisation—said that President Sadat had been "deepening" relations with the West.

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Increasingly militant Islamic organization is drawn into open opposition to regime of President Sadat
Muslim zealots demand return to law of Koran in secular Egypt

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Social Focus

The prison that improves and not just confines

Through the heavy bars of the highest windows there is a glimpse of countryside where the edge of a golf course rises over a grey tide of rooftops. Occasionally the upper deck of a bus cruises silently through this fragment of the outside world, the only movement beyond a close horizon of tall, austere walls that have one door set with a heavy lock. Through the door there is the regime of the main prison; the grey, uniformed and closely-disciplined world of convicts serving a penance of time.

It is unpromising ground for a delicate experiment that may still have more scope than admirers. The special unit at Barlinnie, Glasgow, is a prison grafted on to the core of another prison and arrested there under suspicion of radicalism because it does not obey the old conventions of how crime should be punished.

Whoever heard of relations between cons (convicts) and screws (prison officers) that were not rooted in smouldering hostility or of a prison system that did not hold a prisoner's nose firmly in a sense of his own criminality?

But for the ending of capital punishment, society would have dispatched quite a few of the 17 men who have been through the special unit. When hanging stopped a new type of prisoner appeared in the system: young, ruthlessly violent and with nothing to lose because society had nothing to punish him with except an even more indeterminate sentence. Worse still, such prisoners grooved they could trigger extreme violence and become the heroes of a prison sub-culture with a reputation to live up to.

In the 1960s there were 40 serious incidents in Scottish prisons, which had problems enough from over-crowding and under-staffing and a keenness for convicting relatively minor charges. A high proportion of Scottish prisoners are serving sentences of under two years, many for non-payment of fines.

The Scottish Prison Officers' Association demanded a change more out of a sense of self-protection than any conviction with to reform the system. Many of the men were in real danger. Something had to be done to defuse the violence that infected prison life. Seven years ago the special unit was opened in the former women's wing of Barlinnie, a warren of rooms walled off from the main prison. It was unique in Europe, a place isolating and containing the most violent and disruptive members of Scotland's 5,000 prison population.

The latest anniversary lunch saw the inmates (five serving life sentences for murder; two others six sentences between them for violent assault) sitting down with prison staff, senior officials of the Scottish

prison service and prison governors. Surely a bizarre scene by traditional standards. One might almost have expected the inmates to con to appear and Fleck the assembled company on a lecture the assembled company on a criminal's role in society. The party, an annual event, did demonstrate the sharp changes in attitude allowed by the special unit approach.

After seven years, the scheme remains an experiment. It has survived some hair-raising publicity and attacks but can produce at least one salutary statistic. In the 1970s incidents of serious violence in Scottish prisons fell from 40 in the previous decade to five, showing that when particular strong-minded and volatile individuals are removed from the normal system, tension eases.

Several inmates have returned voluntarily to the normal prison regime. Some failed to respond to the special unit system and had to leave. Others have been freed. So far none has reappeared in prison even when they returned to very unpromising and unhelpful social backgrounds. The number released so far is so small, however, that no one is making any grand claims.

The most frequent criticism aimed at the special unit is that it has no real effect on the prisoners' behaviour. The feeling persists that their punishment is somehow being reduced when it should be made more severe. When the unit was first mentioned in Parliament, Mr. Iain Spence, MP for South Ayrshire, demanded to know whether James Boyle was receiving any special privileges not extended to other inmates.

Boyle, serving a minimum of 15 years for murder, was a founder inmate of the unit and its most spectacular success. Once part of the brutal violence of Glasgow's gangland he has successfully taken up sculpture, published his autobiography (which was smuggled out) and studied for a university degree. His marriage to a psychiatrist, who met him in the special unit after reading his book, filled the headlines. In Scottish Television are now filming his life story.

What kind of justice and punishment, the hard-liners might ask, is that? The point is that the prison service does not hand out punishment—that is a function of the courts. The "punishment" is the loss of liberty and the function of the prison is to guide the offender to "a good and useful life" on release.

Where a prisoner behaves so badly and violently that he is clearly not responding to the constructive efforts of the prison service, he may be considered as a candidate for the special unit—although he

is more likely to end up in the heavily disciplined segregation unit at Inverness. It is not a soft option. The Barlinnie unit is unmistakably a prison with the same claustrophobic sense of containment and the same whiff of well-treaded air. But behind the locked door in the high wall the old disciplines are replaced by others which are more subtle.

The staffing ratio is three officers, working shifts, to one inmate—very high compared with the mainstream of prison life. Inmates do not wear uniforms. Relations with prison officers are informal and on a first name basis. Visiting rules are more relaxed and there is freedom within the walls to take up painting, sculpture, writing and horticulture. The shallow soil of the unit yard has yielded some remarkable results under advice from the Glasgow parks department, although a disinclined view of tall trees or wall-climbing shrubbery.

The prisoners themselves have a say in how the unit should be run. There are regular community meetings at which problems are talked through in the hope that strong, volatile personalities can better withstand the strain of close, high-security confinement for years on end.

The approach demands as much conscientious understanding and change from the old orthodoxy among prison officers and the prison service as it does from the inmates. It requires careful selection so that those who enter the unit benefit from the experience and do not distort the system.

What is frequently asked is whether the Barlinnie experiment has a wider application so that institutionalized prisoners may learn to adapt more easily to life outside and imprisonment can be made positively improving rather than merely confining.

Prison officers still wholeheartedly support the idea and believe it has worked well, although they see some limitations. It should not, they say, be regarded as a "cure-all". It is perhaps unrealistic to imagine that the Government could provide the necessary finance for the high staffing ratios or specialized buildings to accommodate any major extension of the scheme, although "control" units with a strongly disciplined approach are costly too.

But judging by the interest this small experiment in a jail within a jail has created world-wide, and the practical results achieved, it surely offers some hope for reforming the way in which society serves up its "porridge".

Ronald Faux

Clues to the way the body deals with pain

One of the recurring themes in folk legends is the indestructibility of the hero—the man who goes on fighting apparently indifferent to appalling injuries. Most of us are fortunate enough to have no personal experience of being injured in combat, but first-hand accounts suggest that battle wounds often cause little or no pain at the time. Indeed soldiers may believe they have escaped injury and later be surprised to discover their bullet holes and broken bones.

Until recently the best theory that could be offered for the absence of pain in these circumstances was that it resulted from some psychological mechanism—an example of the power of mind over matter. The explanation that has emerged from recent research is more prosaic but in many ways more exciting. As our understanding of the complex mechanisms of the brain that control pain sensation has improved, the answers are beginning to explain other enigmas, from the effects of acupuncture to opium addiction and the action of placebo.

It was, indeed, the opium poppy that provided the starting point of this research story. Opium and its derivatives, morphine and heroin, are by far the most effective drugs for relief of pain, and pharmacologists have long been puzzled by the enormous gap between their effects and the relief given by other drugs. The first clue came with the discovery that within the brain some of the nerve cells

concerned with the perception of pain seem in chemical terms to have been tailor-made to react with opium. The most likely explanation was that the ancient had stumbled by accident on opium, which alone among millions of plant alkaloids happens to share the chemical structure of a substance formed within the brain specifically to block the perception of pain.

This hypothesis was confirmed in 1975, when two substances closely related to opium were extracted from pig brain. Further research has identified the endorphins, chemicals formed within the brain, as its natural pain-relieving hormones. These are the substances which normally react with the receptors to which opium is also attracted.

Research on animals and on human volunteers is currently unravelling the complexities of the brain's built-in potential for suppressing pain sensation. Endorphins are secreted at times of stress—explaining both why soldiers feel no pain in battle and why minor pains such as toothache may disappear when someone is preoccupied by a crisis, only to return when the stress is over. Endorphins almost certainly provide the key to the action of acupuncture, a surprising acupuncture stimulation endorphins are slowly released into the fluid around the brain—so explaining the slow onset of the relief of pain by this method.

Endorphins also seem to explain how placebo "dummy" tablets may be effective

in relieving pain in about 50 per cent of patients given them. Certainly when the drug, naloxone, which blocks the action of both opium and endorphins, is given to these patients their pain is no longer relieved—strongly suggesting that the effect of the placebo on the brain is in some way to stimulate the release of endorphins.

The misery suffered by heroin addicts is more understandable, too. By massively overloading the brain's receptors for endorphins, addicts probably disturb their sensitivity so that when heroin is withdrawn normal amounts of endorphins have little effect. The dramatic relief given by acupuncture, before too long our better understanding should help to provide a sounder scientific basis for the development of new drugs and the exploitation of techniques such as acupuncture.

Dr Tony Smith

Why craft teachers need support

Speaking just before Christmas at a conference for women teachers of craft, design and technology (CDT), Mr. Mark Callis said: "Whatever the coming changes in curricular emphasis, I have no doubt that craft, design and technology has an important part to play in it. The creation of goods and the creation of wealth is an indivisible process. . . . And specialist craft, design and technology teaching is of national importance."

Hopes that CDT would be offered a 10 per cent share of school time were sadly dampened by the Woolly proposals in the Government's latest consultative document "A Framework for the Schools Curriculum". This advocated nothing more than that all pupils should have the opportunity to choose from aesthetic and practical subjects. A half-hearted approach, not likely to galvanize the high ability pupils into taking design and technology seriously, or the girls into flaunting tradition by opting for engineering courses or craft apprenticeships.

However, the lobbying in favour of "craft, design and technology teaching for all" is increasing. Industry and com-

merce are intent on upgrading standards from shop floor to top management. Hence the Manpower Services Commission's grant of £74m to the Construction Industry Training Board, the recommendations of the Finniston Report, the creation of the first Chair of Design Technology at Brunel University, and the Design Council's awards to industry and schools.

The country urgently needs first class engineers and designers. Equally, it needs managers who can communicate with technologists. It is essential that the grounding for these skills be given in the schools and yet, although we are comparatively well equipped with technical workshops, we are unable or unwilling to teach CDT to our most able boys, we tend to neglect the girls, altogether and the craft skills that we offer to the non-academic pupil are often less than adequate.

The subject is so understaffed that workshops are closing or are unable to cater for all the pupils. Girls are excluded from the subject by tradition. The syllabus has changed to a new, academically

demanding problem solving base for which most of the teachers were not trained, and financial cuts have hit hard at subjects like this, where the material resources are expensive.

Efforts are being made to remedy this. The Department of Education is currently recruiting and retraining 500 new teachers a year. Even so it will be several years before we reach a break-even point, let alone make up the 2,000 shortfall.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is urging special discriminatory provision for girls who wish to study CDT but were excluded from the subject at school and need crash courses in craft skills.

But perhaps the most exciting developments are within the examination syllabuses. At all levels they have changed to introduce problem solving skills and communication techniques as well as craft skills and a knowledge of materials. Some of the work being done in a level Craft, Design and Technology papers is of such a high standard that it is subsequently developed commercially. The best is likely to find its way

onto the TV screen in Young Scientist of the Year, appear in the finals of Young Engineer of Great Britain, or win the Design Council's coveted School Design Prize.

The fillip given by these competitions is hard to overestimate. They persuade the public, the universities and industry to take seriously CDT work in schools. They also introduce pupils to the work of the designer and technologist in industry, and they underline for teachers the help and support that bodies like the Crafts Council, the Department of Industry and the Design Council are prepared to give to schools.

The need is apparent, the support is available. This would seem to be the moment for all to make plain their concern at our failure to provide experience of good craft, design and technology teaching to the whole range of secondary pupils. Without it we will continue to lag behind our economic competitors. With it we can offer our children a more balanced education and a more informed choice of career.

Susan Thomas

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointment also on page 4

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Consultant requires capable secretary/assistant. Good shorthand, typing and computer skills. Salary £4,500 per annum. Full benefits. Further details may be obtained from Miss Penny Burdett, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 10 Upper Wichester Road, NW1 5SD. Telephone 01-495 8173.

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When it comes to being happy a life there's something a lot of people tend to forget: job satisfaction. If you're happy at work you're happy at home. No more moaning and complaining because you're fed up with your job on the people you work with. At Office Overload we offer job satisfaction through a unique system of our own. We interview the company and you equally thoroughly. This way we can ensure you are given only the right jobs.

What's more we give you a detailed description of what the job involves, so you can get stuck into it right away. We offer a tremendous variety of top quality secretarial typing and clerical temporary work. In addition, if you work for us regularly we pay you for bank holidays, and you can build up holiday pay in the same way as if you were in a permanent job. Thus, you get many of the benefits of permanent employment, but with the variety and choice of the temp.

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C. LONDON 20-35 HRS. P.W. We are a small recruitment consultancy specializing in audio secretarial work. We are looking for a person who is a natural born leader, a person who is a natural born organizer, a person who is a natural born communicator. We are looking for a person who is a natural born manager.

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Spotlight on SECRETARIES

The work of the Arts Council's Drama Dept involves wide-ranging contact with individuals, organisations throughout England. For skilled Secretaries with some previous experience who are interested in the theatre, it's a world of considerable interest. At present there are a limited number of vacancies in this department offering starting salaries of plus (under review from 1st April 1980), good experience and ability, as well as additional allowances for typing and shorthand proficiency. Pleasant building in Piccadilly. See also other working conditions and benefits. For full details, telephone or write to: Gloria, Assistant Personnel Officer, Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. Tel. 9495, ext. 283.

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SECRETARY
Designing & Art Director. The Arts Council of Great Britain is seeking a Secretary to assist the Designing & Art Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Department and will be required to have a good knowledge of the medical profession and a keen interest in the education of medical students.

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SPORT

Football

Casts change, but the play may be the same

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

With a few alterations in the casts, the two FA Cup semi-final replays will be held tonight, one in the optimistic hope that Saturday's dramatic tie between Everton and West Ham United can be repeated and the other in resigned acceptance that Arsenal and Liverpool are likely to be just as uncompromising as they were the first time.

West Ham, who recovered after conceding a penalty at Villa Park, did enough to make the outcome of their replay more difficult to predict. They certainly benefited when Everton were reduced to ten men as a result of the referee's decision to send Kidd off the field, but that was not the whole answer. The Everton defence conceded ground sufficiently often to give West Ham justifiable confidence for the second meeting at Elland Road, tonight.

Kidd's sending-off, his second in the FA Cup this season, automatically disqualified him from the replay and could eventually lead to his missing the Cup Final if Everton should again be reduced to ten men. He has become eligible for a further two-game suspension. He will be missed by Everton, for whom he is the leading scorer, but his replacement, Latchford, the former England centre forward had scored in every round until Saturday's game, when he played as a substitute.

Three Everton players were injured in the first match, Ross King and Lyons, but they are all ready to play tonight. However, West Ham will be without one of their best players, Eddie Houghton, who has damaged ligaments in his right ankle. This is partly compensated by the return to the midfield of Geoffrey Leach, who had to play in the defence on Saturday. Lampard has recovered from a hip injury that forced him to miss that match, so he returns to the defence, while Pike stands by in case Martin, who has tonsillitis, is unable to start.

Both Paisley and Terry Neill, managers of Liverpool and Arsenal respectively, have offered no hope of a more open, ad-

versus match, at Villa Park, during the four, goalless affair at Hillsborough where only the last 15 minutes contained excitement comparable to the other semi-final. Arsenal eagerly put Liverpool under pressure in that period, and with a more favourable wind, could have won when Talbot's lob descended on the crossbar. Another struggle of attrition seems inevitable.

The Arsenal defence had to be changed in mid-match on Saturday, when Liverpool decided to put on Fairclough, the fast-running forward. Nelson, who had aggravated a hamstring injury, was removed to allow a fresh man, Walford, to shadow Fairclough. Yesterday, Mr Neill said that there was no real change in Nelson's fitness, so Walford would have to wait until today to see whether, this time, he could play a full match. O'Leary, still bruised from Betts's tackle, is to play.

Fairclough was brought on for Liverpool when it became clear that a tough, early challenge by Nelson on Case had done more damage than was at first thought. It transpired that Case had quite a severe shoulder injury, and this could easily be further damaged if he plays this evening. McDermott is again ruled out because of a knee injury, which was also aggravated by the hamstring problem.

Liverpool have several players under treatment at the same time. Their goalkeeper, Clemens, has a heavy kick and Neal was also injured. Both will play but the manager has had to name a party of 14 instead of announcing his usual unchanged team. It would be wrong to think of this as tantamount to a crisis, but it may mean that the Liverpool defence is at a crucial moment in Cup and League.

Williams pins his hopes on an ancient cure

The ancient Chinese cure of acupuncture treatment enables the Southampton midfielder Steve Williams to appear for the England Under-21 team in the European championship semi-final round game against East Germany tonight.

Williams' career was threatened in January when he suffered a severe stomach muscle injury. Doctors tried several different treatments before Williams got the needle. Now after just four first division games he resumes his international career in the first leg of the semi-final at Bramall Lane, Sheffield.

The Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy was loathe to release Williams for such a tough match, but he relented after the West Bromwich Albion pair Owen and Robson had pulled out. McMenemy said, "I had a word with Ron Greenwood and he made it clear that I needed Steve for such an important game, so I released him after he had had treatment here."

Rugby League

Hubbard aims to put more in his cupboard

By Keith Macklin

The New Zealand tourists, who are scheduled to arrive for three internationals next winter, will be flexing their muscles against Australia before they leave. The tour, run by the New Zealand Rugby Union, is currently by common consent world champions, has been organized by the New Zealand Rugby Union, and will include representative matches at Hawkes Bay, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Here in England, the tour sub-committee are putting the final touches to the Kiwis' 12-match tour. Top clubs will play against them and there will be three internationals in October and November.

Hubbard, Hull Kingston Rovers' try-scoring and goal-kicking prodigy, who is in his first full season, has created a record and has two more in his sights. He has currently scored 357 points with 29 tries and 135 goals, breaking the Hull KR club record of 335 points by Barry Briggs in all-time, high scorer, Neil Fox.

With a minimum of four club matches remaining, Hubbard needs only 11 goals to equal the club record for try-scoring which will be set by Neil Fox, Hubbard needs only 17 League points to equal the first division record for points in a season, currently held by David Watkins with 283.

Appeal too costly

Phil Dwyer and Ronnie Moore, of Cardiff, are unlikely to appeal against seven day club ban which could cost them £300 each in lost wages. "We've been told it is not worth the expense of lodging an appeal through the PFA," said Moore.

For the record

Golf

LEADING MONEYWINNERS (ITS tour): 1. J. H. Turner, £11,825; 2. R. W. Brown, £10,000; 3. J. H. Turner, £9,000; 4. J. H. Turner, £8,000; 5. J. H. Turner, £7,000; 6. J. H. Turner, £6,000; 7. J. H. Turner, £5,000; 8. J. H. Turner, £4,000; 9. J. H. Turner, £3,000; 10. J. H. Turner, £2,000.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston Red Sox 3, Detroit Tigers 1; Texas Rangers 4, Oakland Athletics 1; Minnesota Twins 3, California Angels 1; New York Yankees 4, Los Angeles Dodgers 3.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Stanley Cup play-off series, Boston Bruins 4, New York Rangers 3 (2-1, 3-2, 1-0, 0-0).

Tennis

LTA seeks unity among the umpires

Lawn Tennis Association officials are seeking a way to unite the two rival umpiring organisations in Britain. It was decided yesterday, Group Captain Peter Hill, chairman of the LTA's tournament committee, confirmed that talks had been going on for some time.

"It would be good for tennis if we could have one organization instead of two, as at present, the two organizations are working for the single body to be under the control of the LTA," he said. "In almost any other sport I can think of, the governing body has control of the officials—the Football League, its referees and so on."

At international level, referees are controlled by FIFA and there is no reason why tennis should not follow the same line. Britain has had two tennis umpires organizations for the past five years, since a rebel body broke away from the Lawn Tennis Association to form the Professional Tennis Umpires' Federation, who control the grand prize events each year at Queens and Wimbledon.

They are also officiating at this week's Debenhams Cumberland Club tournament. But now the professional umpires are undergoing reorganization and Roy Cope, LTA's chairman, who led the breakaway revolt in 1973, has resigned and will devote his interests to bringing about one national body under the control of the LTA.

Mr Cope-Lewis said yesterday: "I look forward to cooperating in any manner required with all interested parties to achieve a British umpiring organization which will set the standard for the rest of the world."

An LTA spokesman commented: "We have said for some considerable time that we would welcome back members of the breakaway group into our ranks. Several have applied and have been accepted. We would like to see one umpires' body which would be preferable and have never thought otherwise. We did not want two organizations competing for the same jobs. The LTA controls 95 per cent of the tournaments in Britain and its members officiate at the Wimbledon championships."

Tennis

FOUNTAIN VILLAGE (California): 1. J. H. Turner, £11,825; 2. R. W. Brown, £10,000; 3. J. H. Turner, £9,000; 4. J. H. Turner, £8,000; 5. J. H. Turner, £7,000; 6. J. H. Turner, £6,000; 7. J. H. Turner, £5,000; 8. J. H. Turner, £4,000; 9. J. H. Turner, £3,000; 10. J. H. Turner, £2,000.

Cycling

PARIS-ROUBAIX CLASSIC TWO: 1. J. H. Turner, £11,825; 2. R. W. Brown, £10,000; 3. J. H. Turner, £9,000; 4. J. H. Turner, £8,000; 5. J. H. Turner, £7,000; 6. J. H. Turner, £6,000; 7. J. H. Turner, £5,000; 8. J. H. Turner, £4,000; 9. J. H. Turner, £3,000; 10. J. H. Turner, £2,000.



The Wembley way: Brooking gets the Cup Final feeling after scoring a goal during practice.

way they worried Liverpool towards the end of Saturday's tie, they can reach their third successive Cup Final.

Giles resigns as manager of Irish Republic

Johnny Giles, the Republic of Ireland manager since 1973, has resigned his position to accept a job in the Republic of Ireland.

Only a fortnight ago he guided the Republic to a 2-2 draw with Cyprus in the first qualifying match for the 1982 World Cup and his tenure of office as manager was not due to end until after that competition.

His relationship with the FAI has at times followed a rather turbulent course. Two years ago he resigned the post after a difference of opinion with the association officials but subsequently changed his mind and returned to the job.

Skiing

British girls shine on the White Lady

By a Special Correspondent

British girls filled four of the top six combined places in the Philips British Alpine ski championships yesterday.

The combined title for the slalom was won by the 15-year-old sister of the double gold medalist, the 16-year-old, who was also the winner of the Winter Olympics. The 15-year-old, who was also the winner of the Winter Olympics, was also the winner of the Winter Olympics.

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Today's fixtures

(7.30 noon start)
EUROPEAN UNDER-21: Semi-final, Scotland v West Germany (Bramall Lane).
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH FOURTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH FIFTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH SIXTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH SEVENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH EIGHTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH NINTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH TENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH ELEVENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH TWELFTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH THIRTEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH FOURTEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH FIFTEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH SIXTEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH SEVENTEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH EIGHTEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH NINETEENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH TWENTIETH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH TWENTY-FIRST DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH TWENTY-SECOND DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH TWENTY-THIRD DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
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SCOTTISH FORTY-SEVENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH FORTY-EIGHTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

SCOTTISH FORTY-NINTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH FIFTIETH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).
SCOTTISH FIFTY-FIRST DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (Dundee).

Best off to join San José Earthquakes

George Best, who has been in the news for his alleged involvement in the collapse of the Bradford City Football Club, has been offered a contract by the San José Earthquakes.

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Rowing Hepatitis led to collapse of Francis in Boat Race

By Jim Railton

Francis, the 19-year-old Oxford boatman, who was in the news for his alleged involvement in the collapse of the Bradford City Football Club, has been offered a contract by the San José Earthquakes.

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Badminton Ireland feel absence of Miss Beckett

From Richard Stevenson

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Rugby Union Irish take a final gam

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PARLIAMENT, April 15, 1980

Zimbabwe to get £75m from UK: other nations have promised help: amnesty for all who broke sanctions

House of Lords
Subject to independence approval, the Government intended to commit over three years aid totalling £75m to Zimbabwe, Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, announced in a statement before leaving to represent the Government in the independence celebrations on Friday. Lord Carrington said the Queen would be represented at the celebrations by the Prince of Wales. The Governor of Southern Rhodesia (Lord Soames) would leave Salisbury on Independence Day.

Britain is thus (he continued) about to terminate its constitutional responsibility for Rhodesia and to transfer power to a government freely elected, under British supervision, by the Rhodesian people. I am sure that you will wish to join me in wishing the new country every success. (Cheers.)

We look forward to working closely with the Government of an independent Zimbabwe headed by Mr Mugabe.

After announcing the £75m aid, he went on: The aid to be given will be in the form of grants and loans. It includes a £7m grant for urgent post-war reconstruction; an allocation of £500,000 for joint funding with British voluntary agencies of projects which they undertake in Zimbabwe; contributions to our share of expenditure through any extension of the London Convention to Zimbabwe; and to the special appeal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and further humanitarian assistance.

The bulk of the £75m will be devoted to a substantial programme of aid which will be allocated in agreement with the Zimbabwe Government. A mission from the Overseas Development

Administration will visit Zimbabwe shortly after independence for talks with incoming ministers to identify projects.

At the request of the new government we are providing assistance with police training, broadening the civil service and the foreign service. We are also providing, separately from the aid programme, assistance with the training of the future Zimbabwe Army.

Because of the marked extent of which the aid programme is already committed over the next two years, and in order to minimise the impact of this very substantial pledge to Zimbabwe on the level of United Kingdom assistance to other countries, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Geoffrey Howe) has agreed exceptionally that there should be made available from the public expenditure contingency reserve a sum of £1m in 1980-81 (with consequent adjustment of the cash limit) and of £2m pounds in 1981-82.

We welcome Zimbabwe's accession to the Commonwealth as the forty-third member. This calls for further legal provisions.

An order under the Zimbabwe Act will be laid before Parliament in draft in the next two days for approval by resolution. The principal purpose of the continuation of certain United Kingdom laws in relation to Zimbabwe notwithstanding its change in status.

Similar provision has been made for the application of United Kingdom law in respect of other republics.

The Zimbabwe Act 1979 granted an amnesty in United Kingdom law for political offences committed with UDI.

A similar amnesty was granted in Rhodesian law, and has subsequently been extended by the Government in a general pardon covering all political offences up to the elections.

Now that full amnesty has been granted to all those responsible for the situation which led to the imposition of sanctions the Government feel that it would no longer be appropriate for any further prosecutions to be initiated for sanctions offences.

The measures applying sanctions in United Kingdom law have of course been taken in an initiative formed by the Attorney General (Sir Michael Havers) that only one case, an appeal, is at present before the courts, and that no other prosecutions are pending. The amnesty will not reopen past judgments.

An order will be laid before the House in due course to give effect to this decision.

Lord Gorman-Roberts (Lab) for the Opposition, said: It did seem that £75m spread over the next three years was a substantial sum, especially when it was linked with certain multilateral advances, possibly from the Community, and other countries. The war in Rhodesia had caused enormous damage.

There is a great deal of damage to be made good (he said) before any aid can be put to productive use.

Mr Claude Cheysson, EEC Commissioner for development, has been in Zimbabwe and has had talks with Mr Mugabe about EEC aid.

Mr Shore: Britain should do more

House of Commons
Granting an amnesty to British firms who had broken British sanctions was a very good move, Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said after Sir Ian Gilmour, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had announced the £75m aid to Zimbabwe in the Commons.

Mr Shore (Tower Hamlets, Sneyway and Poplar, Lab) said: The aid to Zimbabwe is an event which has been ardently wished for by MPs on both sides for many years. I say this because, in spite of great difficulties, refused to accept the fact of UDI and worked towards a proper and legitimate solution.

We are glad to be approaching this final act in the drama of independence—Independence Day.

Aid to Zimbabwe was very necessary given the state of the country and the great disruption it suffered. We welcome the pledge of £75m aid to Zimbabwe, but have in mind the assessment made some three years ago that what Zimbabwe would need would be a sum ranging between £500m to £750m.

While it is not for Britain alone to undertake that burden I would have hoped that the Government would have thought it right to ask the Overseas Development Administration mission to Rhodesia first and to report back on the needs of its economy wherever it has given us a figure first and is now proposing to send the mission out to see how it should be spent.

I would have thought that was the wrong way of going about it. I hope it would give further thought to the aid it receives from the mission.

I hope we will make, along with the new Zimbabwe Government, a genuine appeal for international funds. We have the support of the United States contribution. There are several other nations in the world who are willing to contribute, not just the Commonwealth.

There is one matter on which I must take up cudgels with the Lord Privy Seal—the wide-ranging amnesty provisions.

It is right to give a political amnesty for all offences committed during the period of UDI within Rhodesia. That was a gesture of conciliation necessary in that country. To extend that to British firms who have broken British sanctions is a serious mistake.

I regret this. I believe we have a duty to uphold the law. It is necessary for us to do so if we are to get respect for our laws by firms in Britain and abroad. If we are to carry the right impact on countries abroad as well.

I join him in his good wishes to the new country of Zimbabwe.

We all fervently hope for its success. We believe that the British Government has given an excellent lead.

Sir Ian Gilmour—I am grateful for his gracious remarks at the end of his speech. I am sure that with his less gracious remarks in the middle, he talked about large sums of money estimated to be needed. I am sure that no money at all. It is right for us to say what we should contribute.

He drew his argument away by what he subsequently said. There will be other countries that will contribute aid to Zimbabwe. We have seen the need for a considerable contribution if we had not given a lead by saying what we would be prepared to contribute.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Rugby, Libs and Peabody), said: We wish the government and people of Zimbabwe as they approach legal independence to be aware of the fact that the truncated aid programme is being augmented with special provision for Zimbabwe.

One of the many forthcoming questions about what will be done to meet the total needs of Zimbabwe, given the fact that two years ago the aid programme was set up to need for an international aid programme post independence?

Sir Ian Gilmour—We believe there are many countries that will wish to contribute to the aid programme for Zimbabwe. Some have already done so. Others will do so. We are confident that this will amount to a substantial contribution.

Mr Philip Whitham (Derby, North, Lab)—How many former Rhodesian civil servants and people in the broadcasting industry, the media, and others expected to remain in post after independence?

Sir Ian Gilmour—I cannot give exact figures. One of the objectives of the aid programme is to ensure a safe, stable and prosperous future for all communities. We hope that both the white and the black community will stay in the new country.

Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Derby, Con)—Has he any word of comfort or hope for the patient and long-suffering holders of Rhodesian bonds?

Sir Ian Gilmour—Not at this particular moment. (Laughter.) Mr Mugabe has said that one must be prepared to do things. The question should properly be addressed to the Treasury.

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Powder (North-West Norfolk, C)—

'Wrecking' amendment on pensions rejected

House of Lords
If the Labour Government had pursued the retirement pensions policy now proposed by the present Government, the pension would have been about £5 a week less than it is, Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab) said during debate on the first of a series of amendments to the Social Security Bill.

Opening the committee stage of the bill, Lord Wells-Pestell moved an amendment to the first clause, leaving out two paragraphs amending the Social Security Act 1975, and changing the standard by which retirement pensions are increased.

He said that at present pensions went up in line with increased prices or earnings, whichever was the greater. As a result of prices rising more in some years and earnings faster than others, the amendment would preserve the system.

What if it had for pensions to rise faster than earnings? It was generally agreed that the basic pension was too low. If the Government were not obliged to increase pensions on this basis, the rise would have to come from contingencies in competition with other projects. The Government's policy was not an encouraging precedent.

Lord Banks (Lib) supported the amendment. He said that the Bill if carried would rise faster than prices, pensioners would fall behind and become relatively poorer.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, said that this was a wrecking amendment to a major provision of the Bill because the first clause gave effect to the Government's declared intention.

The implications of the amendment would be considered by the Government could not allow the present situation to continue without regard for the ability of the economy to bear the cost.

The Labour Government had failed to increase pensions in accordance with the present provision in two years. It was right to guarantee pensioners the increase in prices and to leave it at that point.

Lord Dransfield (C) said that the amendment was more difficult to calculate than the prices test. The amendment was rejected by 116-89. Government majority.

Lord Wells-Pestell moved an amendment to provide that the uprating of retirement pensions would commence not later than November 17 and would be completed to November 21. He said that under the proposals in the Bill pensioners would be cheated of a week's increase.

Since the uprating rules had started in 1975 the uprating date had crept forward from November 17, 1975 to November 12 in 1979. If the Government had not done anything about it the 1980 uprating date would be November 10, it was reasonable for the Government to seek power to prevent this kind of thing happening.

But the Government was going forward by allowing the uprating to take place at any time before the end of November. Pensioners and other beneficiaries would be cheated of a week's increase. The Government's intention was to save money at the expense of the retired.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, said there must be some provision to prevent the uprating date creeping forward. There was a need for some flexibility in the arrangements. This would be reversed if there was a fixed date as suggested in the amendment.

The amendment was rejected by 102 votes to 84—Government majority.

French criticized for preventing EEC check on regional fund spending

European Parliament
France should not receive aid from the European regional fund if it continued to refuse to allow EEC Commission inspectors to see how the money was spent, Mr David Harris (Con) said in a debate on the fund.

It is a scandal (he said) that one country, France, has refused to allow EEC Commission inspectors to see how money is spent on industry. This cannot go on. I demand from the Commissioner in up-to-date to stop this from happening. If France persists we must not go on paying money if we have no means of assessing whether that money is used in accordance with the principles of the fund.

A report by the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning, presented by Mr Fernand Delors (Belgium, Soc), without naming France, said that it was deplorable that one member state should impede the work of Community officials instructed to verify on the spot the regularity of payments of aid from the fund.

The committee's report said that the Government's regional policy would have no chance of success unless it gradually became less a matter of financial compensation between member states and was based on Community development criteria.

It deplored the fact that the fund's regulations still employed a mechanism for subsidies to member states based on priorities established at national level under different methods, data and criteria for each country, whereas a Community regional policy should be based on a common basis established in accordance with Community criteria.

The public had a right to be informed of the use made of the Community funds provided by European taxpayers, and assistance from the regional fund for specific projects was a particularly suitable means of drawing public attention to Community activities.

Publicity was important as a means of showing the public that the Community had become a reality and that it took action to assist the most deprived sections of the population. An increase in resources available to the fund was acceptable only if the use of the money was known to the public at large.

Hard work and greater efficiency only way to prosperity

House of Commons
What happened in the next year depended exactly on how hard and efficiently people worked, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at the end of a series of questions on Britain's industrial performance.

Amidst interruptions she said that if people were going to back strikes, of course their output would go down.

If they are (she continued) going to take advantage of increased productivity and of previous investment in British industry and work with greater efficiency, we shall see a higher standard of living. That is the only way to get a higher standard of living in this country.

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) was replying to Mr John Grieve (Edinburgh, Central, Lab) who had reminded her that Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had said yesterday that industrial production would fall 6 per cent under the present Government.

It is that happens (said Mr Cook) she will leave behind industrial output even lower than that left by Mr Edward Heath 10 years before in the three or four years before the Prime Minister who left British industry in a worse state than Mr Heath.

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Training the Army on political issues

When MPs had already testified to the high quality of the training made by British forces in Zimbabwe, it was absurd to talk of the Army being badly politically trained, Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said in a debate on the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Geoffrey Howe).

Mr Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Geoffrey Howe) was satisfied with the level of political education given to officers in the armed forces.

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Unions should be responsible for supporting families of strikers

The Government was putting forward the Social Security (No. 2) Bill not as an exercise in socialism or because it was hell bent on destroying the welfare state, and it was a travesty to suggest this, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when he moved the second reading of the bill in the Commons.

We do it (he said) because we have a consistent, coherent economic strategy to bring inflation under control and restore the balance in our economy.

It is this which will make it possible to cover the costs of the faster economic growth on which alone depend the resources to finance the welfare state. This is an integral part of the Budget strategy.

Mr Jenkin (Redbridge, Watford and Woodford, C) said the Bill was intended to achieve public expenditure of £20,700 million in 1981-82, rising to £48,000 million in 1982-83. It would also implement the pledge, given by Conservative MPs at the last election, to deal with payment of supplementary benefit to strikers' families.

The social security budget must make a contribution to the public spending savings required by the Chancellor. Since 1971 the social security budget has grown three times as fast as national income. This budget, even after the savings introduced by the Bill, would still be growing at an annual rate, in real terms, of 2 per cent.

Clause 1 of the Bill provided for the payment of supplementary benefit to strikers' families. The case for taking these benefits hardly needed to be argued.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on social services (Salisbury, West, Lab), said it was a travesty to suggest that the Government was putting forward the Bill not as an exercise in socialism or because it was hell bent on destroying the welfare state, and it was a travesty to suggest this, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when he moved the second reading of the bill in the Commons.

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Edward Mortimer on how 50 American hostages in Tehran are obscuring the real issues

Iran: suspicious of the West and divided over the Soviet Union

One of the many unhappy consequences of the crisis over the American hostages in Tehran is that it makes it difficult for western opinion to take an informed interest in what is going on in Iran generally. Because we find it easier to identify with, or perhaps because we feel a responsibility for, the fate of those 50 people, we tend to focus on them rather than on what is happening to 35 million Iranians who are still threatening around in one of the greatest political upheavals of their history.

No doubt it is natural that this should be so, but that approach has a number of disadvantages. It tends to confirm many Iranians in their view that our attitude to them is racist. Since we seem to be more interested in the welfare of 50 white people who, so their captors insist, are well fed, clothed and cared for and in no danger so long as no imprudent attempt is made to rescue them, then in the much greater sufferings and dangers to which the Iranian people as a whole have been and are exposed. It may also prevent us from reaching the right conclusions about the hostage issue itself, since that issue is clearly inextricably bound up with the power struggles

within the revolutionary leadership.

But even if it does not (and in a case like this there is something to be said for insisting on a few straightforward principles rather than letting oneself be drawn into the quicksand of revolutionary politics), it is still in danger of blinding us to what else is at stake besides the lives and liberties of the hostages. Even if the hostages were freed tomorrow we could hardly be indifferent to the future of Iran.

Indeed it is clear that for at least some of those responsible for keeping the hostages in captivity that very fact is an important part of their motivation. Precisely because they know that Iran is of great importance to the West they are intensely suspicious of any form of western involvement with Iran, believing that such involvement can only be "imperialist". That of course is broadly the communist view, and some western observers believe that the "Islamic students" following the line of the Imam may actually have been infiltrated by the communist Tudeh party (party of the masses).

Certainly the Tudeh is one of the groups giving them more or less unconditional support, and it openly rejoices in

the complete break with the United States that they have brought about. But it is far from being alone in that.

Since the fall of the Bazaar government last November there has been a virtual consensus among all the groups competing for power—a consensus very strongly endorsed by Imam Khomeini himself and therefore in effect binding on whoever claims to be a supporter of the revolution—that any form of relationship with the United States in the foreseeable future is bound to be unhealthy. Iran is held to be suffering from so deadly an overdose of American influence that only a prolonged period of total abstinence can possibly cure her of the addiction.

Where there is disagreement within the present revolutionary movement is not about relations with the United States but, on one side, about attitudes to the Soviet bloc and on the other about the possible role of Europe and Japan. The issue of the Soviet bloc divides right from left, as one would expect, although on neither side of the division is there complete identity of views.

Broadly, the view held by President Bani-Sadr and his supporters, and also by the

Islamic Republic Party (IRP), which seems likely to dominate the new parliament, is that there is nothing to choose between the superpowers. Both are equally evil, equally "imperialist" and therefore the influence of both should be resisted with equal vigour.

This view has received increasing clear endorsement in the last month or so from the Imam, with the result that those who dissent from it are being forced on the defensive.

Among the dissenters the Tudeh party, which is unconditionally pro-Soviet, is probably the least important. It remains discredited by its long record of favouring Soviet state interests where these clashed with those of Iranian national liberation, from the 1940s onwards. It took no significant part in the revolution and has been trying to make up for this by proclaiming its unconditional support for the Imam and the religious leadership even when, as happened last summer, the latter clamped down heavily on the left.

Generally speaking this has only brought it into greater contempt, although its leader, Mr Nureddin Kianuri, claims a modest success in increasing the party's vote in Tehran from 40,000 last summer to

nearly 60,000 in the first ballot of the parliamentary election in March. Even so, this is only 3 per cent of the electorate.

More serious left-wing forces, in the view of virtually all observers, are the two guerrilla movements—the People's Fedayin (Marxist-Leninist) and the People's Mojahedin (Muslim progressive).

The arguments used against them are that Europe and Japan are so much under America's thumb that it is quite illusory to hope they will break ranks, and (alternatively) that he is going to conjure up a new Euro-Japanese superpower no less nefarious than the other two. This second argument he dismisses as absurd. The first he concedes may turn out to be true, but argues that good relations with Europe are at least worth trying for, especially as the alternative may be an uncomfortable degree of dependence on the Soviet bloc.

However, the IRP and some of the other clerical leaders associated with the Islamic students (possibly including the Imam's son Haj Ahmed Khomeini) have so manipulated the hostage issue as to leave the president very little room for manoeuvre.

A second article will examine some of the internal issues facing the Islamic republic.

It was partly for this reason that he favoured a soft line on the hostages, since on that issue he was in a stronger position.

The issue of Europe and Japan arises principally within the "right" according to the above classification. There is a polemic about it between President Bani-Sadr and the IRP. President Bani-Sadr holds that Europe and Japan can be encouraged to adopt a more independent line from the United States and thus provide the technical expertise and capital goods which Iran and other developing countries need if they are to achieve economic independence.

Bernard Levin

Shall I compare thee to the Taj Mahal?

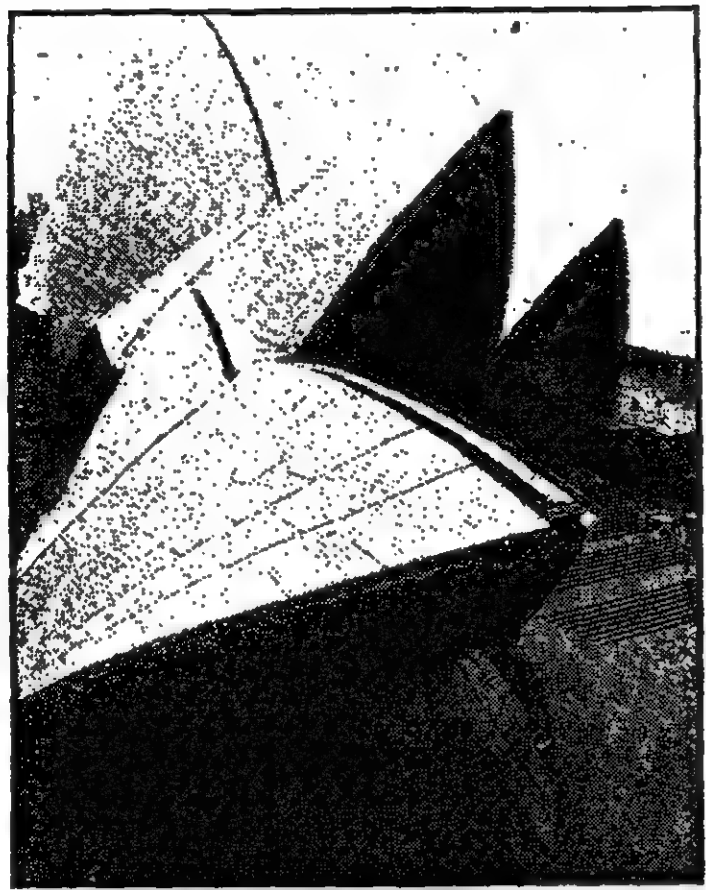
When I set off for Australia last month I'm very sorry, but I forgot to note, despite my promise to do so, which way the bathroom goes round before disappearing down the plughole, so the matter will have to be classified as still undecided until I get back there and settle it one way or the other. I knew I would be stopping in India on my way home, and I knew that I would be seeing the Taj Mahal again. What I did not realize in advance was that I would be seeing another building, on my travels, which can justly be compared to it for beauty, character, effect and, above all, for that quality of being unexpected despite its familiarity—which provided the first, last and most overwhelming shock on my first visit to Agra itself. I refer, anticipating myself as I do so, to the Sydney Opera House.

Like the Taj Mahal, Joern Utzon's achievement is known by sight to hundreds of millions who have never seen it in the stone flesh. What is more, even something of its history is known to many who have no idea of when the Taj Mahal was built or why. Everybody knows, for instance, that the Sydney Opera House cost vastly more than the original estimate, though I imagine few know by just what proportion the bill exceeded the forecast. (The estimate was \$4,500,000, the final tally \$62,000,000, a factor of almost 14 to 1. This margin of error makes even Mr Healey—14 Budgets in three years and still

getting it wrong—look like a Chancellor of the Exchequer.) Most people know also that the architect, finally resigned, before the building was completed, whereupon a huge collective of designers (some say as many as 11) dipped in and the outside by then being virtually finished—carefully ruined the interior.

But all the anger and unhappiness and cowardice have long since been forgotten (a recent interview with Utzon in the Opera House's magazine is full of forgiveness and reconciliation), and even if they had not, the building stands now, a monument to its designer's genius that dwarfs the all too human scale of the circumstances of its construction. And it is that monument that I have now seen, and of which I must tell you, as I told you of the Taj Mahal, that no picture, no description, no effort of the imagination, can prepare the visitor for what he sees when he first sees Sydney Harbour and the billowing sails of the Opera House.

The first reaction is exactly that same word for word, as that prompted by the first glimpse of the Taj Mahal; in both cases, I actually said, "But it isn't white!" The Taj Mahal is almost every colour except white, though the shades of grey and pink and blue are, of course, very pale indeed, which is why it looks pure white in the photographs. Similarly, Sydney's treasure (unless this is the same optical illusion the other way round) seemed to my eye the very



Sydney Opera House: not architecture but sculpture . . .

palest shade of beige. Indeed, if it were truly white the glare beneath the Sydney sun would probably be unbearable, as it is, for instance, in the case of the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem (which houses a remarkable collection of Dead Sea Scrolls) and other biblical material) where I swept my way from the car-park to the front door. But the colour ceases to be important as soon as it has been noticed; for the next thing that strikes the eye is, of course, the shape.

Whatever else this building is, it is undoubtedly the most operatic opera-house in the world. Indeed, it is one of the most dramatic buildings of any kind. Anyone who has seen Neuschwanstein, poor mad Lud-

wig's eyrie among the Bavarian hills, and in particular anyone who has come down the road from Füssen on a rainy day, to see it suddenly climb out of the mist, will have been struck by the sheer impossibility of the place; my own first thought was that I had gone as mad as Ludwig, and I cannot be the only one. But the point is that there is a reason for its almost incredible theatricality; Ludwig, with the aid of a theatre-designer, drew it exactly as one would draw a stage backdrop, then gave it to an architect and told him to build it; the problem was then to translate an idea conceived in two dimensions into one carried out in three.

There is a close analogy here with the Sydney Opera House: its architecture, like sculpture, and that is no mere metaphor, for when Utzon had imagined it, and won the open competition with his preliminary designs, he found that it could not be built as it stood. Certain problems of engineering and dynamics had been solved—problems which had never been solved before. (If you look at pictures of the original model, built from Utzon's competition entry, you will see that the angle of the shells is much lower than in the almost upright version that finally took shape. It seems that there was no solution to the problem the original design would have posed.)

E pur si muove; for there it stands, and it shows no sign of falling down yet. It has, as it were, an exceptionally favourable setting; I was given a tour of Sydney by car as soon as I arrived, and as we went up and down the hills, and in and out of the valleys, we would turn a corner, again and again, to get another view from another angle, of the combination of harbour, bridge, building and open sea beyond it all.

Every new angle brought a new arrangement of these parts of the pattern, and every one was stimulating, exciting, and harmoniously balanced; but in every one the Opera House (it is huge, incidentally, and holds its own comfortably even against the mighty proportions of the bridge) dominated the view even while fitting perfectly into it.

It is inconceivable that Utzon did not have consciously in mind the array of sails which the water around and beyond the Opera House site is so lavishly dotted; his building picks up and flings back the spinnaker shape that the visitor can see almost wherever he looks around the harbour. Yet this is not a copy or imitation of a ship; it is an echo of one, so that one senses the analogy rather than seeing it directly.

All the same, the sensation is enough to give the whole building a feeling of motion, of the sea filling the sails and causing the mighty vessel to go scudding across the placid waters of the sheltered harbour for so massive a building, it is astonishingly light on its feet, and it really seems ready to catch the wind full-on and go sailing up the sky.

It also is, or seems, not quite symmetrical. From photographs it looks as though the shells unfold with absolute regularity, proportionately spaced, but this is not how it strikes a visitor. I was given a fascinating tour of the whole building, inside and out (which included, I may say, a perfectly edible lunch, which did not last have one of those at the Royal Festival Hall?), and again and again we would come round a corner to be greeted by what certainly struck me as a slight asymmetry. In the angles (it reminded me, far-fetched though the comparison may be, of the carillon tower of the Abbey National Building Society offices in Baker Street, which disturbs the ear even while caressing it because the tune seems to have a beat missing somewhere at the end.)

This aspect, even if it is another optical illusion, gives the building an extra air of movement, and the combination of the dramatic quality with the setting, material (the shells are glass-fronted, colour and shape results in a feeling of exhilaration that grows continuously throughout a visit, and that is exactly complementary to the feeling of serenity and peace that the Taj Mahal provides.

More; it sounds paradoxical, I know, but remember that I have seen these two buildings within the space of four days, and it seems to me that there is a sphere in which the exhilaration and the serenity are one, so that although I left the Taj Mahal with the same almost overpowering tearing of the heart that I had experienced on my earlier visit, and left the Sydney Opera House (rewarded by an extra, final glimpse next day from the aeroplane soon after take-off) wanting to leap in the air with joy, the two feelings seemed to well up from a common source and to leave me with the reflection that the two men who carved so memorably in stone must have drunk side by side from the water of that same spring.

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LONDON DIARY

We have seen the Mentmore meditators

Anyone with £1 and an hour or so to spare this afternoon might like to consider a visit to Mentmore Towers, the magnificent Victorian mansion in Buckinghamshire which has just been opened to the public on a regular basis for the first time.

Those who normally find stately homes rather a bore should not be put off from going round this particular one. The former home of the Rothschilds and the Barons of Rosebery is now the British seat of the World Government and Houses 80 followers of His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

As a result, the 45 minute tour of the house offers a chance both to gawp at the artistic treasures left over at Mentmore after the sale of most of the contents two years ago and to discover something of the mysteries of transcendental meditation.

The tour provides some interesting incongruities. A bust of the Maharishi sits over the Rubens marble fireplace in the great hall, the old billiard room is filled with foam mattresses for levitation and "flying", and the room where the servants used to clean the Rothschild silver is now a biochemistry laboratory where samples of "meditators' blood are analyzed.

For the curious, the laboratories, which are housed in the former servants' quarters, will probably prove the most interesting part of the visit. Using impressive complex scientific equipment, the new



Mentmore Towers: interesting incongruities.

occupants of Mentmore claim to have proved that meditation reduces stress, increases healing power and even reverses the aging process.

Visitors need not worry about having transcendental meditation rammed down their throats. Those who are simply interested in the house are left to wander round the rooms once the tour is finished. The guides are not only immaculately dressed in pin-striped suits and exceedingly polite but also very well-informed about the history of Mentmore, which they are painstakingly restoring to its former glories.

The house will be open every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon until the end of October. Those who opt for a Sunday visit may have the added bonus, as I did last weekend, being guided round by one of the ten British Ministers of the World Government. My guide was the Minister of Information and Inspiration, but future visitors could be lucky enough to get the services of the Minister of Cultural Integrity, Invincibility and World Harmony or the Minister of Health and Immortality. There is even a Minister of All Possibilities. I bet Mrs Thatcher wishes she had thought of that.

Kim and I

It had to happen, I suppose. Someone has now written a musical about the Philby, Burgess and Maclean affair. It has its world premiere tonight at the Royal College Theatre.

A Kind of Game, which will run for only four nights, is set in Kim Philby's favourite bar in Beirut, the Bar Normandie, on a day in January, 1963 just before his defection to Russia. Philby recounts his exploits to a journalist, cabaret singer and the barman who becomes, in the enveloping alcoholic haze, characters from his past.

Rather surprisingly a certain former knight recently in the news is not among those conjured up. "Perhaps we'll write him in when the show gets to the West End", the producer told me.

Golden sage

Confucius, he say sell Anglo American Investment, buy De Beers, Kiof and Rio Tinto Zinc.

That is the advice which subscribers to Finance Monitor and Gold News will receive next week. Geoffrey Lee, the investor's proprietor and editor, is

using I Ching, a 5,000-year-old Chinese divination system, as a back-up to his bullion, commodity market and stock exchange forecasting.

Mr Lee has been interested in the I Ching, or Book of Changes as it is sometimes called, since the late 1950s when he used it to help answer personal questions for himself and various friends.

Although he only confesses to it in next week's issue of the monitor, Mr Lee has, in fact, been using the I Ching, which was the subject of extensive commentaries by Confucius, for some time in his market advice.

"I was struck by the accuracy of its advice," he said. "Within a few months it had given profits of 60 per cent to 80 per cent on certain shares, and in my February issue I was able to advise readers to sell platinum at a 100 per cent profit just before the price crashed."

Mr Lee says that at first he was rather reluctant to use such a philosophical and spiritual device for commercial purposes, but he decided that he would not just use it for his own benefit, but to help the generality of gold speculators. After all, the Chinese used it for advice on wars, marriages and the future of newborn princes.

A British academic who has reports that the following two jokes are going the rounds there:

1. Question: Why can't the USSR leave Afghanistan? Answer: They can't leave until they have found the person who invited them.

2. Sign in all Intourist windows: Come to the USSR before the USSR comes to you.



Spokesmen all

It's an ill wind. Our car industry may be in the doldrums but soaring petrol prices and motor costs have given a considerable boost to Britain's bicycle makers. Last year 1,450,000 cycles were sold in this country, more than in any other year since the war. More than three-quarters of them were British made.

The British Cycling Bureau estimates that between eight and ten million bicycles are in regular use in Britain and that over three million people cycle to work every day. The bureau has just launched a summer campaign on the theme "It's better by bike". Apart from offering a terrible line in puns "cycling is

a wheel invest cycling—it's a chea are two of the who pain concentrates the environmental advantages of pedal according to ch cycling who travels each day to work at speed of 12 miles a the same daily exer would from 10 min ling, half-an-hour's squab 50 minu (singles), an hour's 24 hours' golf.

It is a message appeal to Sir Gen Under Secretary of Department of Health for the public, and lobbying the Govern MPs for a better cyclists, the bureau to persuade more o to allow those who business to claim a age allowance.

Already also civil the BBC do this, now has high hope police will follow su and more forces bobbies out of pand put them back in it seems only fair should be given so keep their wheels bling and their b seizing up.

I am so disturbed Annual Union of thant to start a seriously and abi rent-a-bob for every I am hastening to conference in Blackp hope-of catching wh the last silly seasu row's diary will for forsake London for bracing pleasures of I

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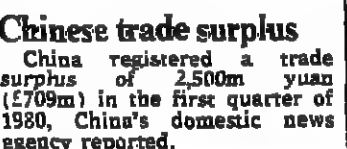
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from Miss Ruth L. Johns. Stn. In the course of my job, I come into contact with senior executives (up to managing director and chairman level) from business and industry when they are planning early retirement, usually with very favourable severance terms.

Since the Budget, some very interesting comments have come to light among this group, who have for some years been among the heartiest proponents of the need to clamp down on "social security scroungers" and who have refuted the argument that "entitlement" was a good enough reason in itself to take state benefits irrespective of need.

The Budget, with its proposal for a new earnings-related benefit, will in due course put an end to senior executives' entitlement to earnings related tax free benefit (for a period after they retire "early") in addition to their company pension and severance payments, &c. This proposal seems to have made some in this group very angry: indeed some are threatening to take earnings-related benefit straight away, in preference to waiting for a second career paid job.

They do not miss or long-rehealed beneath. One told me he did much of "his" for doing this to him.

It appears that people (in spite of relation to others) selves become ready state handouts, who are checked or used to the fact that I have blarney about "I into the state" as I other quarters from dishing the plain tin lives around making benefits instead of as a safety net.

If the emotional, wanting "rights" I of needs in state and some individuals there is so little adventure, optimi progress. If starting second career at 55 over with crocodile favour of grabbing/ earnings-related tax. He, no wonder young state, no longer example lives.

With T. L. JOHNS, 33 Broad Park, Teddington, Middlesex.

THE GROUP

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Two views of Rowntree

Rowntree Mackintosh are now in a strong condition that arises when two very distinct views as to the future of a company. In this sides accept the management's view of the long-term strategy in Europe) has emerged from a dismal year, in which its profits fell by about 10 per cent

however, says well and good: the VAT which knocked last year's good sales for six and given no improvement in the pound had some £5m off profits from when profits should start to show again, at any rate by the end of this year.

side says, on the contrary, that competition are just: that likely to remain sluggish in the future; that a programme of savings for the longer-term means (though from a low base) of interest charges in the meantime, the shares, in consequence, left strictly alone on anything in a three year view.

so by the performance of the day (down by 4p to 150p, decline in profits had been expected), short-time working in Kingston (in an attempt to get down), stiff competition at and 1979 borrowings three times as much as in 1978, and the interim figures will provide cheer about.

a yield of almost 7 per cent, twice covered by CCA profits, fully taxed basis, provides a argument for Rowntree Mackintosh United Kingdom companies can do over the longer-term, the fact it share has not merely been but, increased in the United and consolidated abroad, will strong base for margins recovery, may not perform in the short there are unlikely to be better fortunes.

ortland ng the s' full

relatively modest. Rugby £12.3m rights call will be noted being the first issue of any real since United Biscuits came to £33m a month ago.

ts issue market is still in limbo if. Rugby's call, unlike that of ves a runaway success, it seems encourage a stampede of big joining, the queue for the time use, despite the worsening squeeze to liquidity.

es "generally seem to be coping borrowing costs and recessionary by contracting stocks and laying augurs well for the short-term outlook, should company barst to tail off, if badly for the long-term. And the state of market is still a little too uncertainly rights issues simply to stages of working capital.

the stage is left clear for more opportunists like United and now b groups determined to maintain alspending in anticipation of an ptum, but just nervous enough in auditions to wish to spread the

or too badly stretched financially, ambitious £52m re-equipment and programme of the last three years d a net cash position in 1976 to 8m or almost 30 per cent of sharehold by the last-year end. It wants p, the pace as well as to lessen lagdom dependence by overseas

without harnessing the balance ther or being stung for tax in as healthy overseas balances.

by better than expected profits or cent at £15.1m after a severe setback and a 19 per cent dividend e one-for-four call at 54p (a net of 23 per cent on the overes) hardly inserted the shares up 2p to 58p.

the cement industry could be production drop of anything beand 5 per cent this year efficienly, introduced, particularly on dsis, could keep profits moving uperhaps around the £19m mark

hile, the promise of at least a same

again dividend which points to an ex-rights yield of over 10 per cent should ensure success unless the market takes a real turn for the worse.

Standard Chartered Below expectations

After the one-fifth advance in first half profits and the strong performance recently put up by Grindlays and Hongkong and Shanghai, much better things had been expected from Standard Chartered, with a broadly similar spread of geographical interests, than the 16 per cent rise in pre tax profits of £169.8m last year.

Much of the difference between market estimates in the £180-£190m range and the eventual outcome is accounted for by the higher bad debt provision in the second half and the fact that much of the income from its recent California acquisition Union Bank is from tax exempt bonds.

Grossing this income up would have added almost £10m to the pre-tax figure. Because of this and with a little help from tax sheltering in South Africa the tax charge has fallen 6 points to just over 50 per cent, and net profits have jumped by an impressive 31 per cent to £70.5m.

For the rest the strength of sterling is still proving a problem cutting 1979 profits South Africa is also a bit below expectations largely because conditions there have forced the bank to switch away from corporate lending into the personal field, where the move into credit cards and hire purchase has pushed up the bad debt provision.

With Hongkong and South East Asia strong, the only real weak spot has been the United Kingdom where despite higher earnings from foreign exchange dealing and the metals companies the squeeze on margins from higher money costs has meant a dull time for the hire purchase side.

In the current year world trade should keep profits moving ahead nicely while the United Kingdom interests will benefit from lower interest rates so the 1980 outturn should move in sight of £200m.

Despite a better than forecast dividend at the time of last year's rights issue of 37.1p gross, the shares dropped 20p to 472p where the yield of almost 8 per cent is above average for the banking sector.

With the Midland share sale now out of the way and the likelihood of another good increase in the dividend this year, Standard still looks good value in the banking sector. The free equity ratio of 2.2 per cent following the Union Bank purchase has dropped below that of the clearers generally although another fund raising exercise is unlikely for the next couple of years.

Smiths Industries

Recovery potential

Smiths Industries increased profits without interruption throughout the last decade, and despite the setback in interim profits, the group may yet turn in a new record in the year to July.

Although Smiths still has problems with its motor vehicle and marine activities and the distribution business has met flat demand, the £1.7m fall in half-year profits to £9.26m before tax can be squarely blamed on the engineering strike.

This cut about £3m off first quarter profits, although some was recovered in the second quarter. All the United Kingdom activities suffered—notably aerospace where discontent rumbled on after the strike ended and pre-interest profits were halved to £1.09m.

With order books at a record, aerospace should recover strongly in the second half and longer-term the prospects are good. Smiths also has strength in its other industries division.

Pre-interest profits from overseas were over a third higher at £2.77m with some help from acquisitions and should continue to grow.

These growth areas should provide a cushion against the weaker components business where BL takes half of the original equipment and Iran is still an important customer through the Talbot link.

Profits for the full year should run out close to 1978-79's £25m and show a further increase the year after. At 209p a yield of around 7 per cent and fully-taxed prospective p/e ratio of about 8 does not look too resting in view of the better than average prospects.

Planning becomes a nightmare for Moscow



Laying a section of the 1,800-mile long Baikal-Amur railway in eastern Siberia.

Last year was outstandingly bad for the Soviet economy. Growth fell to an all-time low of 1.3 per cent; the weather adversely affected the grain harvest; industrial production was well below expectations. Indeed, there was an absolute fall in output of such important products as coal, steel, cement, fertilizer and railway locomotives.

The pages of the Soviet press are filled with sharply critical analyses. The railways originated a crisis with freight movements: "I saw with my own eyes at Leningrad piles of good timber which have been awaiting transport for five years" (*Pravda*, January 7, 1980).

The investment programme is over-expanded and construction delays are growing, and meanwhile "from year to year utterly hopeless plans are based upon equally utterly hopeless measures" (*Pravda*, February 25, 1980). Mr. Brezhnev has complained that many consumer goods, such as needles, thread, toothbrushes and babies' nappies, are unavailable. Food shortages have grown worse.

The preliminary figures for the first quarter of 1980 are a notable improvement over the previous year. But it is clear that the five-year plan which came in 1979 will not be fulfilled. Specialist journals and *Pravda* articles regularly discuss ways and means of achieving the necessary increase in efficiency and labour productivity.

A decree reforming national planning and management was issued in July 1979, but this did no more than to change the detailed formulation of plan indicators, within a system still centred on the original five-year plan document. In effect, the changes that have been introduced is to make it, if anything, more centralized still.

Centralized planning is a source of both strength and weakness. It enables the political leadership to determine priorities, to direct to key sectors the best materials, and to attract to them the best labour and management (by its power over wages and salaries).

But the incentives are paid out by the state, it has been possible to enforce an incomes policy. Thus in 1980 average wages will be 15 per cent above 1975 levels; this is actually less than the 16-18 per cent promised in the original five-year plan document. In striking contrast to the West, trade unions do not demand higher wages in the Soviet Union and there is no unemployment; on the contrary, there is a serious shortage of labour.

Apart from the obvious case of armaments, centralized planning is most clearly effective in the field of energy. True, the Soviet Union does have an energy problem but its essence does not lie in the planning system but rather in geography and geology.

The more accessible sources are becoming exhausted, and reserves are to be found in remote areas, mainly in the frozen north of Siberia. Substantial investment is necessary to develop these regions, and this is one reason for the slowdown of Soviet growth.

However, long-term energy planning is not a sphere in which western capitalism has any advantages—high interest rates, inflation and uncertainty, together with political pressures, impede the emergence of a long-range energy policy.

In the Soviet Union a long-term energy plan is in operation. There has been a spectacular increase over the last 10 years in the output of oil and natural gas in north-west Siberia, as well as a vast oil and gas pipeline construction programme, with some pipelines leading all the way into central Europe.

The new Baikal-Amur railway, soon to be completed, will open up some of the mineral riches of east Siberia. There have been many difficulties, not the least of them transport (the Trans-Siberian is heavily overloaded) but, bearing in mind the natural obstacles to be overcome, these are surely examples of the problems of success.

The worst problems arise in sectors which are not in the top priority category. They suffer because of the truly impossible scale of centralized planning: in principle, every production unit must be told what to produce, where to deliver, and from whom to obtain the necessary inputs; it must be given targets for such factors as output, labour productivity, wages and profits.

But there are literally millions of different products so "the plan" becomes a multitude of "plan-instructions" issued from numerous ministries, committees and departments. Coordination becomes a nightmare.

To enable the centre to cope with an impossible job it is necessary to aggregate the millions of products into a smaller number (for example, "footwear", "oil-bearings", "miscellaneous agricultural machinery", etc.), with plan-targets set in millions of pairs of tons or rubles. The result is neglect of quality and of the customers' requirements, and also sheer waste; thus anyone whose plan is expressed in tons is penalized if a new design happens to weigh less.

Innovation, though genuinely desired, is in fact discouraged by the fact that management is judged above all by the fulfilment of plans, and because new materials or new designs usually require a change in planned inputs or additional investment, and these need permission from higher authority.

The more important enterprises usually obtain their more important supplies (for example, iron ore for metallurgical plants), but even they are often short of minor inputs of many kinds, and either have to make their own (for example, components and spares) or use the services of so-called *tol-kachi* ("pushers"), unofficial supply agents, whose methods include bribery. Non-delivery of planned supplies is a constant source of complaint.

One cause of trouble is the division of products, and of delivery obligations, into "most important" (*vazhneishie*) and others, supposedly less important. But these are often complementary to one another: thus fertilizer supplies increased much faster than did the means to spread it in the fields, and *Pravda* noted the fact that, in the clothing industry, trousers are on the list of "most important", but zip-fasteners are not.

Virtually all these weaknesses arise, directly or indirectly, from the impossibly large scale of central planning. The task is made more difficult by the lack of reliable information: management tends to understate its production potential, while overstating its needs for labour and materials—in the hope of obtaining a "fulfillable" plan.

Harassed planners change plans frequently and workers can have little interest in decisions taken in remote planning offices, with the result that recent decrees have drawn attention to improving, absenteeism and drunkenness.

Similar problems have been encountered in other East European countries. Their smaller size may seem to

simplify the tasks of the planners but their much greater reliance on foreign trade calls for greater market-oriented flexibility.

In 1968 Hungary adopted a far-reaching reform, based on the principle that production should be determined by orders from the customers, not from planner-bureaucrats. Czechoslovakia would have adopted a similar system—but for the removal (for other reasons) of the reformers by Soviet troops.

Hungary has suffered from adverse terms of trade and has modified the reform, but none the less its economy seems to work more smoothly with supplies to the citizens more ample than in the Soviet Union. Likewise the East German economy seems more effective than the Russian, though not because of any move towards "market socialism". Its greater efficiency may be explained, in the words of a Polish colleague, "because no system has yet been invented under which Germans can be prevented from working".

Poland's troubles stem largely from the unsound and excessive investment boom of 1971-73: investment rose by 125 per cent in those five years, money wages by 60 per cent with large-scale borrowing from the West. The consequence was severe over-inflation followed by significant investment measures. Half-hearted attempts to reform the planning system have been put into cold storage. Poland is perhaps the most vulnerable of the eastern economies.

In the Soviet Union, a few voices have been raised advocating a Hungarian style reform, with more reliance on the market mechanism, as an essential precondition for efficiency. Central planning would be modified, but not abolished, and significant investment decisions and to such key sectors as energy, metallurgy, transport, and, of course, armaments. Such proposals as these arouse strong opposition and will not be adopted by the present (separatist) generation.

The present disarray of the western market economies, and the enhanced priority of the military-industrial sector, strengthen the hand of the opponents of any effective decentralization. Yet, in the end, will there be any other way out of the situation of increasingly intolerable inefficiency?

Alec Nove

The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Glasgow.

Doing a deal on longer holidays

The latest figures from the Confederation of British Industry's pay database show that two fifths of new settlements contain provision for longer holidays. Analysis of individual agreements adds flesh to these statistical bones. The engineering, the bakery trade and sections of the motor industry have all recently added to their holiday entitlement of their workers.

How much paid holiday do most British workers get? How does industry cover itself during periods of staff leave? The answers reveal wide variations between different localities, types of industry and different grades of worker.

The United Kingdom, in contrast to most of the rest of Europe exercises little statutory control over holidays. The last piece of legislation was the Holidays With Pay Act, 1938: this laid down the right to a single week of holiday with pay. However, despite the absence of legislation, it looks as though at least half the British workforce gets close to the four weeks which is provided as a statutory right in many EEC countries.

Department of Employment statistics show that, by 1978, 47 per cent of manual workers had holiday entitlements of between three and four weeks and 35 per cent had four weeks or more a year. There were big increases in entitlement between 1951, when the majority of manual workers had two weeks, and 1975.

Since the mid-seventies there has been little change until now, when it looks as though a new upward move in holidays is accompanying the resumption of free wage bargaining.

There are signs that the amount of holiday pay is increasing as well as the length. In a survey of holiday entitlements in 77 companies and 10 public sector organizations, Incomes Data Services found that although most still paid basic rates as holiday pay, there was a gradual move to payment based on an average of weekly earnings. The difference is important: overtime pay, shift allowances, productivity and other extra payments can account for as much as 50 per cent of a manual worker's weekly pay packet.

Firms such as Ford and Vauxhall cover for holidays by closing down for three weeks in the summer—a practice which is also common in Europe. For Vauxhall the four weeks holiday have been taken in the spring bank holiday period while Ford shuts for a week at Christmas. A holiday shutdown by a big employer creates a chain reaction in other businesses.

This has led to such local traditions as the "Glasgow Fair" when most of the city closes down and the "Wakes Week" (now a fortnight) celebrated by the Lancashire textile trade. The "Wakes Week" is further complicated by the fact that different towns take their holidays at different times spread over the three summer months.

Other industries stage their holidays so that they can remain in operation throughout the holiday period. Some agreements stage the exact same levels required. At Metal Box, for example, the only restriction on the timing of annual leave is that no more

than 25 per cent of personnel may be away at any time. The same applies to Mobil Oil which has a permitted level of absence at 30 per cent.

Within such guidelines it is left to management and employees to agree the dates of annual leave between them. This is often a matter of custom and practice. Some companies, such as the Midland Bank, give first choice of dates to the most senior staff; similarly in the Post Office the more senior postmen usually get first choice of leave.

It is common practice for extra holidays to be given to staff with long service. Department of Employment figures indicate that more than a third of manual workers receive additional holiday entitlements with service. IDS found that about 70 per cent of the organizations surveyed give service-related days of holiday.

Both J. Sainsbury and P & O have specific holiday entitlements which depend on the employee's age. At Sainsbury's employees aged over 60 with a minimum of 10 years' continuous service receive an extra five days' holiday up to a maximum of 25 days a year. At P & O, given five week's holiday, it gives 10 senior managers at the age of 50.

It is difficult to measure the extra cost to employers of longer holidays. Nationalized industries such as the Post Office and British Rail whose workforces may be increased during the staff holiday season, have to pay more in overtime to staff not on holiday. Even so there can be benefits if not enough people are prepared to take on an unpopular shift. This is why the Post Office

wants to take on casual workers during the staff holiday season so that it can maintain an even quality of service.

On the surface, the cost equation is easier for those companies which close down for a couple of weeks and whose staff are all on holiday at the same time. Indeed, in times of recession, the holiday period may actually give a welcome respite to harassed factory owners by giving new orders a chance to catch up with production.

Again, on the surface, public holidays would appear to be exceedingly expensive for essential services. Most manual workers' agreements have provision for substantial additional wages to be paid for work on public holidays. The Post Office gives its manual grades the choice of either normal pay for the day plus time and a half and a day off or normal pay plus double time and a half and no day off.

In the private sector, Shell

UK gives double time to workers who are entitled to overtime. Other companies give a day off as well. Typically, there is no provision in either sector for white collar workers who at best may get a day off in lieu, but no extra pay.

However, if manning agreements permit and the volume of business drops sufficiently, it is often the case that fewer staff than usual are needed on public holidays and so, despite the heavier payments, the cost is much the same as on a normal working day.

A reasonable deduction from the BCT's databank findings is that employers prefer to give longer holidays rather than concede the shorter working week.

Patricia Tisdall

IDS Study 206—Holidays 1979. Incomes Data Services, 140 Great Portland Street, London W1.

Standard Chartered Bank Limited

The Directors announce the results of Standard Chartered Bank Limited as follows:

	Year ended 31st December 1979	Pro forma Year ended 31st December 1978	9 months ended 31st December 1979
Trading Profits			
Bank and subsidiaries	148.9	127.6	110.7
Share of Associates	20.9	18.7	11.9
Taxation	169.8	146.3	122.6
	85.2	81.8	68.8
Minority Interests	84.6	64.5	53.8
	14.0	10.8	8.8
Extraordinary Items	70.6	53.7	45.0
Profit attributable to members of the Bank	70.6	44.5	
Dividends	22.5	11.3	
Profit retained	48.1	33.2	
Earnings per share	88.4p	76.0p	63.7p

DIVIDEND

The Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting, on 29th May, 1980, a final dividend of 16 pence per share, equivalent to 22.86 pence per share gross. The total distribution for the year will be 26 pence per share, equivalent to 37.14 pence per share gross. The final dividend will be paid on 6th June, 1980, to shareholders on the register on 9th May, 1980.

L. R. BISHOP
Secretary

Business Diary: Joseph's Danish designs • Fraternal dilemma

Joseph's Danish designs • Fraternal dilemma

● Fraternity in the trade union movement is being stretched to the limit as far as the half dozen or so unions which are holding conferences next month are concerned. Their problem: how can they handle the TUC's day of action?

Officials are desperately trying to discover how the unions which service conference venues are going to react on May 14. Several have taken the decision to suspend their conferences so that they can march shoulder to shoulder in the conference side streets where the conferences are being held.

The 230,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association, for instance, is holding a special executive on Friday to discuss how best to support the TUC while ensuring that the conference is disrupted as little as possible.

Another problem facing unions with conferences on May 14 is that all their activists and head office staff will be at the conference, so how do they mobilize the troops into action?

● "A Spandau opened fire" wrote Major-General Roy Urquhart in his book about the Arnhem operation of 1944. "The Germans knew where we were and it would be senseless to try and take them on."

I turned to the two officers, one of whom was Jimmy Cleminson. "I glanced down into the street and saw the familiar field-grey uniforms of the Wehrmacht. Opposite was the hospital. Cleminson took a look and then said: 'We can't get out this way. The place is crawling with 'em'."

This week James Cleminson, the 58-year-old chairman of a leading grocery company, will preside at the annual conference of the Food Manufacturers' Federation. Like his father, he has spent the whole of his civilian working life with the same company.



James Cleminson of the FMF.

ged in 1937, and the Cleminson who served on the joint committee in South America later became chairman of the combined group. It is his son who is chairman now.

The company now has a workforce of 38,000, and manufactures many household products. James Cleminson became managing director of the food division 10 years ago in succession to Roy Hare, who was himself a president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation.

Cleminson's appointment at the FMF marks a return to the fray. The food industry is still reeling from the split between the FMF and the Food and Drink Industries Council and the deterioration of relations between farmers and food processors.

The new man ought to be able to smooth out a few wrinkles on the agricultural front. He lives in Norfolk among some of the largest and wealthiest farms in Britain, was one of the first breeders in Britain of Landrace pigs, and still keeps a few sheep.

● Finance Monitor, one of the plethora of share-tipping newsletters which abound these days, can at least claim to have come up with an unusual method of forecasting.

Geoffrey Lee, editor of the monthly letter, tells me that he has been using I Ching, the 5,000-year-old Chinese divination system, to back up his predictions.

"I was struck by the accuracy of its advice," claims Lee. "Within a few months it had given profits of 60 per cent to 80 per cent on certain shares, and in my February issue I was able to advise readers to sell platinum at a 100 per cent profit just before the price crashed."

Lee omits to say, however, where I Ching, a system involving charts and random ivory sticks, has proved less successful.

The back page of the letter does warn: "Market views and advice expressed here are the personal opinions of the publishers who cannot be held responsible for action arising from them."

David Hewson

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Profit-taking as equities drift

The stock markets saw a day of consolidation, with a few profit-takers in some sectors making a mark as the new account went into its second day.

Second thoughts on an early fall in interest rates prompted a reaction in the gilt-edged market, while equities, although remaining fairly firm, showed signs of languishing without the support of gilts.

Share prices were also hit by a lunchtime news report of troop movements in the Middle East, particularly on the Iranian border, which helped to further depress prices, although later in the day there were signs of recovery. Special situations provided a boost to some shares, including continued takeover rumours for Lasso by the German Deminor group which recently hid for Viking Oil. These suggestions pushed Lasso's price up by 12p to 493p.

Gold shares suffered from the fall in the bullion price which at one point left it below the psychological barrier of \$500.

The falls in the long-dated sector of the gilt market, prompted early in the day by the Chancellor's revelations the previous night, over significantly higher wage settlements, stretched to £1 in some cases. This gave back some of Monday's gains which dealers considered yesterday to have been slightly overdone.

But the Government broker was able to sell a little more of the special low-coupon tap Stock Exchange 3 per cent 1984 at £70, during the morning. Short-term gilts closed about £1 off with long finishing about £1 down after a much quieter day's trading.

By the close the FT Index was down 0.4 at 437.8, having been at 435.7, down 2.5, at 10.00 am.

The main feature among the leading industrial stocks was the reaction to Glaxo's results of Monday, which were well down on expectations. The shares closed at 218p, 8p off after jobbers had marked prices down all day as the institutions were neither buyers or sellers. Other leaders which drifted downwards included ICI which, after a cautious chairman's warning, dipped 4p to 368p. Beecham which lost 1p to 115p and BAT Industries, one of the participants in a Granada Television documentary on smoking

on Monday night, lost 2p to 238p.

Grand Metropolitan drifted back another 4p to 120p as investors considered the difficulties over the Liggart acquisition. But Unilever which went ex-dividend at the start of the week, added 3p to 398p. Courtauld closed 1p down at 65p, while Dunlop added 1p to 57p.

Cement groups headed the list of company results with Rugby Portland losing 2p to 258p.

More than 20 parcels of shares in Bamber's Stores went to institutions yesterday morning at 67p, a discount of 7p on the previous price, as eight persons decided to repay personal bank borrowings. Hedderville, Stirling, Grunbar, which arranged the placing of the 17 per cent stake, said the largest batch was of 500,000 shares after heavy institutional oversubscription.

68p on the news of a £12m rights issue with better-than-expected figures.

Ready Mixed Concrete saw a good response to its profit statement, with the price rising 3p to 352p.

Abertaw and Bristol Channel also had a good day, rising 22p to 160p at one point, although the price retreated 2p by the close.

Among the banks reporting yesterday, Standard Chartered saw a 30p fall to 472p after disappointing the market, with a similar reaction for Bank of Scotland's figures, although it closed just 2p off at 352p.

In stores, Home Charm eased 2p to 137p after preliminary

results, while in foods Rowntree Mackintosh lost 4p to 150p after an uninspiring announcement. Tate & Lyle advanced 6p to 136p on the back of a House of Lords report that favoured sugar refiners.

Smith Industries slid 1p to 209 on an interim statement, while Dorada's full-year results left it unchanged at 62p.

Rothschild Investment Trust's increased stake in Godfrey Davis, which gives a 27.62 per cent stake in the group, made no impact on the share price at 168p, but Style Shoes continued to advance on the back of renewed takeover hints to close 13p up at 160p.

The electricals sector reacted to news of improved telecommunications systems by seeing strong advances, particularly among the second-liners such as Electrocomponents, which gained 7p to 535p, and MK Electric, which rose 12p to 167p. But further consideration of Monday's results for STC pushed the price down 2p to 164p, while Hoover lost 5p to 180p.

The majors saw less spectacular rises. GEC gained 2p to 379p, Racal rose 1p to 240p, Ferranti improved by 5p to 505p and Thorne-EMI rose 2p to 258p.

The engineers received a boost from Energy Secretary's Mr David Howell's announcement that the Government would be improving the new nuclear power stations. Northern Engineering rose 2 1/2p to 42 1/2p, Babcock International advanced by 1p to 97p and Whessoe gained by 2p 7/4p. The rest of the sector was quieter although GKN put on 1p to 263p, but Hawker Siddeley dipped 2p to

184p and Tubes were unchanged at 250p. The oils pitches were mixed with BP continuing to fall after the chairman's profits warning and in reaction to Wall Street and Iran. It closed at 336p, 10p down after a short rally at the end and Lasso's bid rumours helped Premier which gained 2 1/2p to 731p while Cavendish advanced to 13p, a 8p rise. Cluam Oil announced that it had acquired a further 100,000 shares in CCP North Sea Assoc-

ates, making a holding of 26.8 per cent and CCP rose to 242p on the news. Shell finished 2p down at 346 with Tricentral 6p up at 294p. Burmah moved up 3p during the day behind its Gabon Exploration deal but finished unchanged at 215p. Ultramar added 2p to 562p.

Equity turnover for April 14 was 285.86m (number of bargains was 11,398). The most active stocks, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Glaxo, Lasso, STC, Burmah, Shell, Ultramar, Bowring, Prudential Corporation, Bowater, Burton Group, Marks & Spencer, Associated Dairies, Coral Leisure and GEC.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
ABT & Co (F)	26.1(21.1)	1.0(1.35)	2.1(2.6)	5.5(4.75)	2.6	8.4(7.3)
Bank of Scotland (F)	—	40.6(34.25)	77.4(61.4)	7.7(5.68)	2.6	15.0(12.25)
Bathorpe Hldgs (F)	49.8(43.9)	7.6(6.5)	9.4(8.3)	2.7(1.8)	1.7	—
Dares Estates (F)	5.4(3.6)	0.6(0.3)	5.6(4.0)	0.6(0.50)	10/7	1.1(0.75)
Dorada Hldgs (F)	75.2(59.8)	1.92(1.61)	10.7(14.6)	3.7(4.23)	28.5	8.4(7.47)
Edinburgh Invest T (F)	—	6.3(4.4)	—	1.4(—)	30/6	2.5(1.95)
Forward Tech (I)	21.2(17.9)	1.1(0.9)	4.9(4.3)	2.3(2.0)	30.5	—
Home Charm (F)	41.1(29.1)	2.7(2.1)	19.1(13.3)	1.6(0.9)	9.5	2.3(1.43)
Boarace Cory (F)	2.7(2.2)	0.47(0.3)	3.3(3.34)	0.7(—)	30.5	1.3(0.75)
Lamont Hldgs (F)	3.1(2.62)	0.28(0.20)	2.8(0.97)	1.0(0.3)	1.7	1.0(0.3)
News Int (F)	200.0(177.0)	27.9(24.9)	30.3(28.39)	3.0(—)	—	6.0(4.97)
Ready Mixed (F)	730.0(632.0)	47.3(36.6)	33.0(28.0)	4.9(3.91)	—	8.2(5.70)
Rowntree Mack (F)	601.32(562.7)	40.4(35.1)	29.8(25.1)	4.7(4.23)	9.7	7.2(6.5)
Roy Pined Cmt (F)	95.5(78.1)	15.1(14.5)	12.8(10.4)	2.5(2.1)	—	4.7(3.95)
Smiths Inds (I)	150.0(139.0)	9.2(8.0)	—	3.7(3.6)	11/6	—
Senior Ent (F)	60.9(54.5)	5.0(4.5)	6.8(6.84)	6.7(5.05)	2.6	1.5(1.4)
Standard Chart (F)	—	169.8(146.3)	88.4(76.0)	16.0(17.7)	6.6	25.0(16.2)

Figures in the table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net.

Rowntree Mackintosh

Group Sales reach a record £600 million.
Continued high investment in plant and products.

Summary of Results

	1979 £'000	1978 £'000
Sales to third parties		
UK	326,973	298,669
EEC (excluding UK)	148,173	139,825
Overseas	126,175	124,211
Total	601,321	562,705
Trading Profit	46,569	51,728
Pre-tax Profit	40,432	45,070
Profit after tax	33,879	36,952
Ordinary Dividends	7,832	7,020
Funds Employed	300,572	251,792
Ordinary Dividend (pence)	7.25p	6.5p
Earnings per share (pence)	29.8p	35.1p

- * Sales volume maintained against keen competition and VAT increase.
- * Further gains in market shares.
- * Exports up 3% to £63m in face of transport strike and strong pound.
- * Fixed asset investment at record level of £45m.
- * Increased dividend of 7.25p per share covered 4 times on historic basis and 3 times by current cost earnings.



Rowntree Mackintosh

KIT KAT * QUALITY STREET * SMARTIES * POLO * BLACK MAGIC * GOOD NEWS * FOX'S GLACIER MINTS
ROWNTREE'S PASTILLES * AFTER EIGHT * WEEK-END * AERO * ROLO * DAIRY BOX * TOFO * MATCHMAKERS
JELLYTOTS * WALNUT WHIPS * TEXAN * NUTTY * YORKIE * BLUE RIBBON * BREAK-AWAY * MONTEGO
CREAMOLA * PAN VAN PICKLES * TABLE JELLIES * SUN-EAT PEANUT BUTTER * CHEDDAR SPREAD

RMC stages late rally

By Peter Wilson Smith

Ready Mixed Concrete finished 1979 on a strong note with second-half profits up by nearly a half. In common with others involved with the building and construction industries, the first half suffered from atrocious weather early in 1979.

But RMC has made up much of the lost ground and full-year pre-tax profits were 29 per cent higher at £47.3m—above best expectations—on sales ahead from £63.2m to £75.0m. Profits were struck after a £1.6m rise in interest charges to £4.24m, and overseas profits were reduced by £1m on translation.

A proportionately higher tax charge and two-fifths rise in minorities to £6.10m trimmed the rise in earnings per share to 19 per cent. But the year's gross dividend has been raised by 21 per cent to 11.8p and the payout was four times covered.

RMC managed a small rise in sales volume in the United Kingdom, while West Germany, which accounts for a third of group sales, lifted volume by a tenth and trading profits by 32



Mr John Camden, chairman of Ready Mixed Concrete.

per cent to £14.4m. Trading profits from elsewhere overseas were £2.92m higher at £9.36m, with half the increase coming from France which recovered well.

Up 3p to 168p on the results RMC shares yield 7.1 per cent.

Also benefiting from the more favourable conditions in the second half of 1979 in the construction industry was Abertaw & Bristol Channel Portland Cement. After slipping into losses in the first half of the year, when sharp rises in gas prices pushed up costs, Abertaw recovered strongly in the second half to finish the year with profits of £1.00m before tax—a drop of a fifth.

Turnover was 24 per cent higher at £26.2m, and the group had the benefit in the second half of price increases in cement. Abertaw is converting its kilns from gas to coal firing, and interest of £220,000 relating to the financing of the project has not been charged in arriving at profits. Instead, interest charges are being deferred and will be charged against profits over a period of five years from the time when the conversion is completed.

The gross dividend for the year has been raised by 10 per cent. At 168p—up 22p on the results—the yield is 7.6 per cent.

No bid although Palma has 29.9pc of Montfort

Mr Peter Bailey who heads the Leicester-based private group Palma Textile, announced yesterday that he owns 29.95 per cent of Montfort (Knitting) but says he does not intend to make a full bid.

Mr Bailey started buying Montfort shares during the summer, and has already acquired, bid by neighbouring textile company David Dixon.

He has now bought a further 300,000 previously held by Dixon. Mr Bailey said last night: "It is not my intention to make a full bid. This is a long-term investment."

Mr Bailey's shareholding in textiles companies also includes a 23 per cent stake in the publicly-quoted Towles group.

Mr David Newbitt, chairman of the Hongkong-based Jardine Matheson group, commenting on the company's 1979 results, says that the year saw the achievement of two objectives towards which the company had been working in recent years.

That was the disposal of several unprofitable or low-yielding investments and a substantial improvement in the quality and proportion of recurrent earnings.

Group 1979 net profit was HK\$403.20m (about £35.90m). Final dividend is 80 cents against 51 in the previous year, making total of 82 cents (71).

Company announces three for 20 bonus issue. Books close on April 28 to May 12.

The company said that principal items among the extraordinary items were a credit of HK\$157m arising from the disposal of shares in the Hongkong Wharf and Godown Co and US\$35.8m charged in respect of the investment in the Transporting and Trading Company.

Mr Newbitt said the current year would be another good one for the company and further significant growth at a rate similar to that achieved in 1979 is anticipated.

He also said that the company expects to maintain the rate of dividend on the capital increased by the proposed bonus issue.

Saudi Int Bank

Operating profit of Saudi International Bank for 1979 before charges for taxation and the provision for possible loan losses amounted to £6.0m compared with £3.7m for the previous year.

This represents an increase of 63 per cent. Profit attributable to shareholders amounted to £2.3m against £1.4m for 1978, an increase of 66 per cent. As a result of the increase in earnings, the directors are recommending that a cash dividend of £798,000 be paid to shareholders.

Total assets of the bank and its subsidiaries as at December 31, 1979, were £785.2m, an increase of 61 per cent over 1978.

Business appointments

F W Woolworth names new company secretary

Mr D. Housh has been made company secretary of F. W. Woolworth & Co, with effect from April 1, 1980.

Mr Stewart Carswell becomes senior partner and Mr John Delany and Mr Dennis McGuinness become partners of Carswell & Co.

Mr John Evans, managing director of Siebrand-Interwine (UK) has been appointed to the main board of directors of Siebrand (FV) of Holland.

Mr Cyril Guttridge has been appointed director, technical services; Mr M. J. Garrett special director, technical services; and Mr G. D. Morley special director and group financial accountant of Ducille Sales.

Mr Leslie W. Peters has been made commercial director of the Heron Motor Group.

Mr R. C. Ansell has been appointed director of sales of Hercules-Powden.

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Mr M. Roberts has been appointed group financial director of the Orefex Group.

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Mr Peter Moate has been appointed a director of the group board of Aurora Holdings.

Mr A. G. Macpherson has been appointed a non-executive director of RFD Group.

Mr Michael E. Cross has been made chairman of the automobile

Home Charm plans £4.5m expansion

Home Charm, the "Texas" paint, wallpaper and kitchen and bathroom furniture group, plans to open ten stores this year giving a total selling area for 98 stores of one million square feet.

That growth, costing £4.5m, and bringing capital spending since 1978 to more than £10m, is expected to produce "phenomenal" profits for 1981, according to Mr Seymour Saldaen, the finance director.

Stores opened last year and the three already unveiled since January held back profits growth for 1979 as the company offset opening and initial running expenses.

Pre-tax earnings rose 23 per cent to £2.8m on a turnover up 40 per cent at £45m. But the stock market expected the group to top £3m last year and the shares lost 2p to 137p.

The dividend is lifted about 60 per cent from 2.04p gross to 3.285p with a 2.28p final.

Home Charm's expansion is now geared to freehold sites. It expects that the next round of rent increases, affecting more than 80 of its existing stores, could be substantial. By the end of the year, the freehold boost should lift assets per share by about 90p to 317p.

Mr "Manny" Fogel, the chairman, says that sales since January are 25 per cent up on a year ago.

Jardine achieves its objectives

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holders funds of £41.6m.

Mr Edgar Felton, executive director of the bank, which is 50 per cent owned by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, attributed the increase in profits to the employment of a larger capital at higher interest rates and to an expansion of the commercial banking business, particularly in the bank's fee-earning activities.

Monsanto rebounds

After a precipitous drop in fourth-quarter earnings, Monsanto's first-quarter profit rebounded to record levels, according to Mr James J. Kerley, chairman of the finance committee and chief financial officer.

First-quarter net rose to about \$16m (about £7.3m) from \$161.8m the year before. Sales were also a record, increasing by about 13 per cent to more than \$1.3bn from \$1.2bn, he said.

As previously reported, fourth-quarter earnings had dipped 75 per cent to \$10.9m from \$44m.

Elsevier optimistic

Elsevier-NDU NV of Holland, expects its turnover to rise by about 10 per cent this year while profits will at least equal those in 1979.

The company previously announced 1979 net profits of \$15.5m against 46.5m in 1978, on turnover increased to 1.2bn fl from 1.1bn fl.

Net profit rose to 36.96 fl last year from 33.75 fl in 1978.

Uniroyal expects loss

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Uniroyal expects to record a first quarter loss of \$12m (about £5.3m) against the year

LT & WIBORG GROUP

...nt points from the Statement
...Chairman, Mr. C.F. Strang.
...9 Trading profit increased by
...6 from £3.33m to a record
...75m.
...nings per stock unit
...anced from 9.40p to 17.88p.
...e Company expanded its
...re potential by the acqui-
...on in 1979 of the assets of
...mer Research Laboratories
...l the business and assets of
...cliffe Inks.
...ed assets increased by £4m.
...idend per stock unit 2.30p
...78 - 2.16p).

PAINTS · CHEMICALS · ENGINEERING

Metatrax dings) Limited

egrated network of engineering
ies in England and Wales

ther material increase

	1979	1978
ver	£'000	£'000
before taxation	21,598	17,038
after taxation	2,529	2,108
	1,827	1,202

fore taxation show a further material increase to £2.53m,
turn of 45% on net assets employed.

is
recommended are slightly in excess of twice the dividends
ear.

iders funds and liquidity
less funds have increased from £4.535m to £5.820m. The
of cash amounted to £1.565m, but £1.621m was paid for
ation for cash of George Wilkinson (Burnley) Limited, the
ts of which have yet to be seen. In addition more than £1m
last year on new plant and machinery and improved

ue
use of one ordinary share for every ten held is being
ied.

i will do everything in its power to prove the prophets of
ing and will aim as always to do rather better than its

he report and accounts from:
etary Metatrax (Holdings) Limited
oad Kings Norton Birmingham B38 9PN
te: 021-488 6571

FINANCIAL NEWS

Growth slows at News Int

by Philip Robinson
New American ventures and
the sale of part of its stake in
L. W. T. Holdings hit profits of
Mr Rupert Murdoch's publish-
ing empire News International
last year.
The group's share of associ-
ated companies fell from a profit
of £1.8m to a loss of £361,000,
and slowed the overall profits
growth of the group, whose
United Kingdom publications
include the Sun and the News
of the World, to a rise of 12
per cent.
At the pre-tax level, earnings
went up from £24.9m to £27.9m
on a corresponding 12 per cent
rise in turnover to £200m.
Mr Murdoch said in a state-
ment accompanying the figures
that the increased profit re-
flects the improvement in
trading in most divisions—
which include paper making,

engineering, transport and
travel agencies—and "is con-
sidered satisfactory having re-
gard to the loss of some 36
million copies of our news-
papers by industrial stoppages
during the year."
He said the share of the trad-
ing result of associated com-
panies was affected by the
initial cost of newly-acquired
projects in the United States
and by the incorporation of a
smaller percentage share of the
profits of LWT (Holdings).
At that time News Inter-
national sold 16 per cent of
their holding and last month
the group sold the remainder—
25.18 per cent—through the
market for £4.8m.
In his statement Mr Murdoch
makes no reference to current
trading, but the dividend is
raised 20 per cent to a gross
total of 8.57p with a 4.28p final.



Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman
of News International.

Briefly

Restro Investments: Offer made
on behalf of Restro Investments
has closed for acceptances, which
have been received in respect of
3,025m shares. Offer (approx 58.15
per cent of the voting rights).
London & Overseas Freighters has
signed contracts with Mitsui
Engineering & Shipbuilding Com-
pany for the construction of two
55,200 dwt tankers for delivery
during 1982. Total cost is expected
to be in the region of £27m.
Ascom Trading (Edg) Board
states that it is obvious from
number of proxy forms received
that proposals to be submitted to
the egm have aroused a great
deal of interest. Votes repre-
sented by proxies lodged show
that there are majorities in
favour of all resolutions.
Horace Cory and Co: Turnover
for 1979 was £2.7m against £2.2m
in the previous year. Pre-tax
profit was £479,900 (£510,000).
Earnings per share were 3.85p
(3.34p). Final dividend is 0.50p
gross, making 1.35p gross (1p
gross).
London and Stratheide Trust:
Gross revenue for half year
ended February £528,000
£536,500. Earnings per share
1.79p (0.93p). Net asset value per
share 72.2p (62.7p). Interim di-
vidend of 1p gross (0.5p) has been
declared.
Glamorgan Property's offer
for Cardiff and Provincial Prop-
erty has been extended until April
21. Acceptances had been received
in respect of 3,801 shares (0.8
per cent) as at April 14. Glamorgan
owns 231,555 shares (60.09 per
cent).
Yearling bonds: Coupon on this
week's crop of Local Authority
Bonds is 10p against 17p last
week.
Lamont Holdings, the Edinburgh-
based investment holding company,
increased pre-tax profits from
£101,000 to £283,000 in the year
to December 31. Turnover
increased by 21 per cent to £3.16m.
The group, which has interests
in engineering, life assurance and
property, has more than tripled
the dividend from 0.43p to 1.45p
gross. The dividend was covered
2.7 times. The engineering division
turned in an improved performance
and the life assurance division
benefited from higher investment
earnings.
Mersey Docks and Harbour Com-
pany sank deeper into the red
last year and shed 13 per cent of
its workforce, the group revealed
yesterday. Pre-tax losses rose from
£1.4m to £7.4m, after making a
£5.6m charge for the voluntary
severance of 1,044 employees last
year. Trading was also hit and
earnings fell from a profit of
£1.2m to a loss of £1.8m.

Cadbury Schweppes resolute on spending

Cadbury Schweppes is deter-
mined not to let economic un-
certainty deflect it from its
current investment policy dur-
ing the next two years, accord-
ing to chairman Sir Adrian
Cadbury.
In the annual report, he tells
shareholders that as a result of
the decision taken three years
ago to concentrate on major
international brands, which
proven success, the group is

much better placed to meet
future conditions.
"The group has the addi-
tional advantage that sales of
its product range have shown
remarkable stability in the past
in the face of downturns in the
economy."
Last year, Cadbury pushed
pre-tax profits up from £48.2m
to a record £57.3m during what
Sir Adrian describes as a period
of "substantial progress".

Dorada payout increased

At first glance the 1979 fig-
ures for Dorada Holdings are
good. Sales rose 26 per cent to
£7.26m for a group, that is
in part a dealer for Vaux-
hall and Volvo, and in part an
engineer, it is no shame to see
pre-tax profits up "only" 19
per cent to £1.52m.
The dividend rises in step
by nearly 20 per cent to 5.47p
or 7.82p gross.
At this point reality intrudes.
Earnings a share fell from 28.8p

to 22.3p, but as the chairman,
Mr Thomas Kenny, explains,
Dorada has bought several com-
panies, "resulting in a substan-
tial increase in the share cap-
ital and reserves. Comparisons
with 1978 are therefore not
relevant."
In addition, Mr Kenny, who
is also chairman of GRI Inter-
national and Ruberoid, points
out that but for the engineering
strike profits would probably
have been £250,000 greater.

Barton offshoot to be closed

Barton & Sons, the Bir-
mingham-based tube maker and en-
gineers, is closing its structural
design offshoot, Wright Ander-
son, which would have lost
£500,000 this year.
The subsidiary, employing 350
people, went into the red early
last year after being hit by
soaring costs, the continued de-
pression in the commercial
trade, and the disruptions of the
engineering and steel strikes.
Mr John Roper, Barton's
deputy chairman, declined to
say how much the closure would
cost the parent company which
itself was hit by disputes that
pulled profits down by £500,000
to £3.3m last year.
"The move will involve us
in heavy redundancy costs, but
I'm not prepared to put a figure
on the closure at the moment,"
he said. "A more de-
tailed report will appear in the
annual accounts in the first
week of May."

Dares Estates beats forecast

Dares Estates, the Bir-
mingham-based property investment
and housebuilding company,
has comfortably beaten the
profits forecast it made with
its cash call of one-for-four that
raised £450,000 last August.

Mr Peter Jackson, the chair-
man, then forecast pre-tax
profits of £565,000 against
£364,000 last time. The group
now reports that last year it
made as much as £504,500
thanks to a greater number of
sales of flats held as invest-
ment properties.

Stripping out such extra-
ordinary items indicates pre-tax
profits of only £78,000 against
£98,000, which points up the
group's reliance on dealing.
Turnover during the year rose
by 50 per cent to £5.46m.

The group points out that the
total profits are up for the
fourth year running.
The new board took office in
1976 when it acquired about 65
per cent of the ordinary capital
at 2p a share.

Dares was part of Mr
William Stern's empire.
The profits came from house-
building and property invest-
ment on the south coast of En-
gland, especially Hampshire and
Dorset; in the Midlands, par-
ticularly Birmingham and Soli-
hull; and in Cheshire, Lanca-
shire and central London.

Noting that there is still a
large sum in tax losses still to
be used, the directors report
an increase in earnings a share,
after extraordinary items, of
37.6 per cent to 5.60p. The final
dividend is to be 0.65p taking
the total dividend up from 50
per cent to 1.13p net, or
1.62p gross.

Dares says that the land bank
stays strong with more than 400
plots, ample to cope with the
next two years.
However, in four years net
asset value a share has more
than doubled to 23p.

ABBEY NATIONAL 1979



Outstanding mortgage lending and secure asset growth in a difficult year

Among the points made by the Chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson,
at the Annual General Meeting of the Abbey National Building Society on the year
ending 31st December 1979 were:



MORTGAGES "When comparing our mortgage lending with the whole Building Society movement we advanced a sum well in excess of our asset share of the industry. In total, £1,420m was lent to 108,000 borrowers... £265m was lent on new housing, £338m on pre-1919 properties."



ASSETS "The Society's assets reached the considerable figure of £7,250m, adding almost £1,000m over the year. Total reserves now stand at £267m (3.68% of assets). Liquidity increased to £1,276m (17.6% of assets)."



GROSS RECEIPTS "...with interest credited, reached new heights at £3,637m. As we enter the new decade we do so in the proud knowledge that we have 5.7 million investing members."



MANAGEMENT EXPENSES "We have over 100 more branches than our nearest competitors yet our expenses to assets ratio is lower than the average for the industry as a whole and that of our major competitors."



OPEN BONDSHARES "One of the highlights of our year was the launch and continuing success of our Open Bonds... longer term savings facilities but with an increased degree of flexibility."



HOUSING RESPONSIBILITIES "We are a very large organisation in the housing field and strongly believe that our expertise should be used in a positive manner. We have helped to sponsor a housing competition for estates (in conjunction with N.H.B.C.)... given assistance in 64 housing action areas with negotiations well advanced in another 50."



THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR "We have proposals to build housing for rent, with priority to members, through the establishment of a housing association with which we shall have close links. We have also, established a Housing Award in conjunction with the R.I.B.A. for good design and energy conservation."



EUROPE "We were the first British building society to open an office in Europe, when we moved into the rue Montoyer in Brussels in April."

Signs of recovery in the level of business activity

Extracts from a statement by the Chairman, M G R Sandberg, O.B.E.

New location for Head Office

British Bank of the Middle East became of The Hongkong Bank Group, our have become increasingly integrated of the Group's other members. The we of our Head Office to Hong Kong will a closest liaison with Group Head Office the Group to give the most efficient service to its customers.

Year's Results and Capital Structure

all operating profit for the year showed improvement on that for the previous year. rates in the Middle East have risen and re been signs of a recovery in the level of activity.

son between our results for 1979 and 1978 d by the appreciation of sterling, which ed the value in sterling terms of ces of profits by branches.

its consolidated after-tax published profit 37,649, compared with £4,821,492 in 1978. ds paid to the parent shareholder were 00.

olidated Reserve Account has increased 07,045. The unappropriated profit carried will be increased by £907,971 to a total 9,026, so that the consolidated total of Capital and Reserves of the Bank will stand 36,071.

The Balance Sheet

actual item affecting comparison of our ance Sheet with that of 1978 is the ation of sterling against the US dollar, in arency a significant proportion of our s is denominated. Thus, the apparent in Current, Deposit and Other Accounts of tion (from £1,369 million to £1,317 million) nts at the least a maintained deposit base, nd Short Term Funds, at £532 million, show



Branches:
Bahrain · Djibouti · India
Jordan · Lebanon · Oman
Qatar · Switzerland
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Yemen Arab Republic

Associates:
Cyprus · Saudi Arabia · Tunisia

Head Office:
1 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong
Telephone: 5-2677-111
Telex: 73201

In London:
99 Bishopsgate
London EC2P 2LA
Telephone: 01-638 2366
Telex: 889185

The Chairman's Statement is contained in a Report and Accounts book obtainable from the London Office (M.I.R. Dept.).

an increase of 22%. This shows a stronger liquid position than in previous years, and represents over 30% of Current Liabilities. This increase in liquidity reflects the reduction in holdings of Trade Bills and Certificates of Deposit Purchased totalling \$64 million, while our Time Deposits with Banks totalling \$243 million now represent a further 18% of Current Liabilities.

The Middle East Scene
In our long experience of serving the people of the Middle East we have undergone many changes, some voluntary, some not. Last year was a restless one in the region and some of our branches were confronted with exceptional difficulties, which our staff handled with their accustomed skill. These were the conditions in which it was considered desirable to strengthen liquidity.

In economic matters the most significant event was the loss of Saudi Arabia's stabilising influence over oil prices. In December 1978, just after the OPEC meeting had produced a programme for regular quarterly price increases for 1979, exports from Iran ceased altogether and did not resume for three months. Saudi Arabia endeavoured to provide compensating supplies but its ability to raise its production proved to be considerably less than had been generally believed, while a severe winter added to the difficulties of consuming countries.

Although preliminary estimates of 1979 trade figures confirm a slackening of pace the more populous states continue to have large development needs and it is hoped that they will be able to maintain their progress.

The Staff
I thank all the staff for their successful efforts in a testing year.

The British Bank of the Middle East

A Member of The Hongkong Bank Group

ABBEY NATIONAL

FULL COPIES OF THIS SPEECH, THE ACCOUNTS AND DETAILS OF OUR VARIOUS INVESTMENT SCHEMES CAN BE OBTAINED ON REQUEST FROM: THE SECRETARY, ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 6XL.

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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

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T G West, Managing Director

Whites

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We're looking for a senior secretary to work in our Staff Department. This is a busy, friendly department within a large professional firm in the City of London.

You will work for a director who is heavily involved in policy decisions and needs a mature, competent secretary with excellent skills to deal with the volume of work. You'll need an unflappable nature to cope with the kind of day-to-day problems which occur in a Personnel Department.

This position is open to both men and women and will command an attractive salary, backed by a full range of benefits including LV's and the use of an excellent subsidised restaurant and coffee bar.

Find out more about us and what we can offer you. Telephone or write to Diana Shave,

Coopers & Lybrand

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Tel: 01-606 4040.

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West End

gbr

A well known, successful management selection consultancy in the West End, is looking for a high level secretary/PA, primarily to increase the effectiveness of one of its senior directors.

They are looking for good, accurate typing, preferably with shorthand, ability to handle administration and extensive telephone and personal contact with clients and candidates.

The person appointed should be able to work independently and be self-sufficient, have a reasonably strong personality, with a sense of humour to cope with a small, hectic office and challenging boss.

GEORGINA BENNETT RECRUITMENT
Please telephone Georgina Bennett on 01-493 6106. 11 Maddox Street, London W1R 5LE.

SENIOR SECRETARY

We are a leading Petrochemical Company seeking a Senior Secretary to work for our American Legal Adviser. The successful applicant will be expected to take a lively interest in all aspects of the functioning of our Legal Department and to use their secretarial skills to the full. The ability to deal with personnel at all levels and to take on some administrative duties is essential.

We offer a good starting salary together with bonus, LVs, season ticket loan scheme, four weeks holiday, etc. Please telephone Brenda Proust or Sally Ivis for further details and interview on 01-837 2655, Stone & Webster Engineering Limited, Stone & Webster House, 238 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HA.

MAYFAIR

£5,000

Senior executive in leading management consultancy seeks a smart and well educated P.A. Secretary 30+. Apart from good secretarial skills you will be involved in highly confidential and interesting work relating to top level executive recruitment.

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£6,000

International W.I. organisation seeks an outgoing and confident P.A. Secretary 25+. You will assist their overseas director, good organisational ability is important for his extensive travel and will be expected to take a good deal of client contact and to shoulder the day to day running of the office during his frequent absences.

BERKELEY APPOINTMENTS

161 New Bond Street, London, W.1
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(Recruitment Consultants)

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Super, friendly W.I. Advertising Agency is looking for a bright young Secretary, with accurate shorthand and typing, to join the lively team who deal with press, T.V. and radio side of advertising. You'll never be bored with lots of phone work and people always calling in.

ADVERTISING RECEPTIONIST—£4,500+
An International Advertising Agency near Covent Garden is looking for someone to organise its busy reception area. If you are over 23 with a bright, bubbly personality you could look after clients and Agency people and get involved in friendly Agency life. There is a dress allowance of £125.

"The Agency"

185 Kensington High Street, W.8.
01-837 4336.
Open 11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Thursdays.
Staff Consultants

TRUSTHOUSE FORTE LIMITED

Main Board Director's Secretary

Opportunity has arisen for an experienced Secretary to join the Trusthouse Forte Group, working for the Director of Group Administration.

The position located at Park Lane, offers a wide range of company benefits including free lunches, and hotel and holiday discounts.

For further details please contact Miss J. Kitchen, TRF Ltd., 7 Hanover Square, London W.1. Tel: 01-493 6121 ext 159.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Oil Industry

London

If you are aged 24+ with previous experience of library work and ideally, but not essentially, possessing a City & Guilds Library Assistant's Certificate, we have an excellent opportunity for you. We're Macdonalds Oil Ltd., a leading company in the field of oil and gas exploration and it is important to the efficient operation of our activities that our library is kept up-to-date and well informed.

Claire Wilkinson,
Marathon Oil U.K. Ltd.,
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Tel. 01-486 0222

Elizabeth Hunt

CHAIRMAN CROSS £6,250
Our client, an international company, seeks a PA/Secretary to their personal manager and chief operations officer. This person will be expected to take a lively interest in all aspects of the company's activities and to take on some administrative duties.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING £5,361++
PA/Secretary to an international manufacturing company and become involved in all areas of the company's activities.

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PA/Secretary to an international company closely connected with the oil industry. Great step up for a bright secretary wishing new challenges and a high salary.

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Senior PA/Secretary sought for City based marketing consultancy. You will find this stimulating work and a high salary.

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The Chairman/Managing Director of our rapidly expanding Group of Companies requires a really able and efficient confidential secretary. There is scope for considerable involvement and personal responsibility. Top all-round secretarial abilities (including shorthand) are needed, plus occasional travel and a fluency in a second language is desirable but not essential.

Pleasant offices opposite Kensington Gardens, friendly atmosphere and excellent salary are offered in return for your aptitude and experience.

If you are adaptable, have a good sense of humour and enjoy hard work, please telephone or write in confidence to Geraldine Barros at the address given above.

P.A./SECRETARY

TO THE CHAIRMAN

Salary £6,000 plus bonus

The Chairman of the American Institute for Foreign Study, the world's largest educational organisation, is looking for a P.A./Secretary. This challenging, interesting post involves preparing reports, organising the Chairman's schedule, and acting as a liaison between the Chairman and his staff. The successful candidate will be a mature, well educated, and confident woman with a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar position. She will be expected to take a lively interest in all aspects of the Institute's activities and to take on some administrative duties.

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JAYGAR CAREERS

ADMINISTRATOR TO £7,000

Work on own initiative and organise 7 men in Moorale.

RECEPTIONIST C. £5,000

Immediate appointment person 25+ for prestige West End Co.

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Good salary and a very attractive position for job or future variety for the sports enthusiast.

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PER executive secretaries

PUBLIC RELATIONS

You must have fluent FRENCH and GERMAN and for 1-2 years will double as Secretary while you undergo an ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE and train for a similar post. There will be several trips abroad and most of your clients will be overseas. Obviously you must be very smart, with an extrovert personality, but able to work in a team. Salary negotiable £8,000.

ADMIN IN THE CITY

You are very bright, probably in your mid-twenties, and looking for a post that offers FIRST CLASS PROSPECTS and an EXCITING ATMOSPHERE. Everyone does their own typing, including you. SHORTHAND IS NOT NECESSARY. You are very smart and well spoken and can withstand pressure. Starting salary from £5,500—but very negotiable if you have previous Shipping Experience. Modern offices overlooking the River, free membership of St. Katherine's Yacht Club, Free S.U.P.A. Pension scheme etc.

£6,000-£6,500 N.W.1

A unique opportunity to work for the Head of the Corporate Affairs Division of a National Company. This Division ensures communications on all matters of policy, personnel, financing and marketing throughout the world. Organisation. You must have good shorthand and audio and preferably 'A' levels. The work is so varied and interesting, we prefer to explain in person. Exceptional Benefits.

TOP FLIGHT SECRETARY

HORTON, Mr. STAINES

The International Operations Director of a rapidly expanding company requires a P.A. (male or female) who will be capable of organising his new prestige office, including furnishings and setting up own systems. Short-term and typing must be reliable. Particularly suitable for candidates aged 25-35. Non-conformity pension scheme. Starting salary negotiable £5,000.

Apply: Dorothy Allison

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PER, Executive Secretaries

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